DAILY EXPRESS
CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BRITAIN
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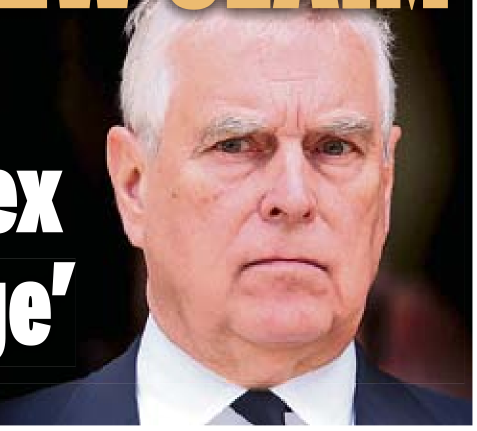
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026
£2

## NURSE TAKES UK WOMEN'S RIGHTS FIGHT TO AMERICA

EXCLUSIVE SEE PAGE 7

## NEW ANDREW CLAIM

## Epstein 'sent woman for sex at Royal Lodge'



SEE PAGE 6

# PM WANTS TO 'REWIND' FREEDOM BREXIT GAVE US

EXCLUSIVE

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor

**KEIR Starmer has come under fire for trying to "rewind" Brexit, suggesting voters were tricked into leaving the EU.**

The PM blamed the 2016 decision on false promises – and took aim at Nigel Farage, whose Reform UK is ahead of Labour in polls.

But Mr Farage warned that Sir Keir is "determined to drag us back under the heels of Brussels".

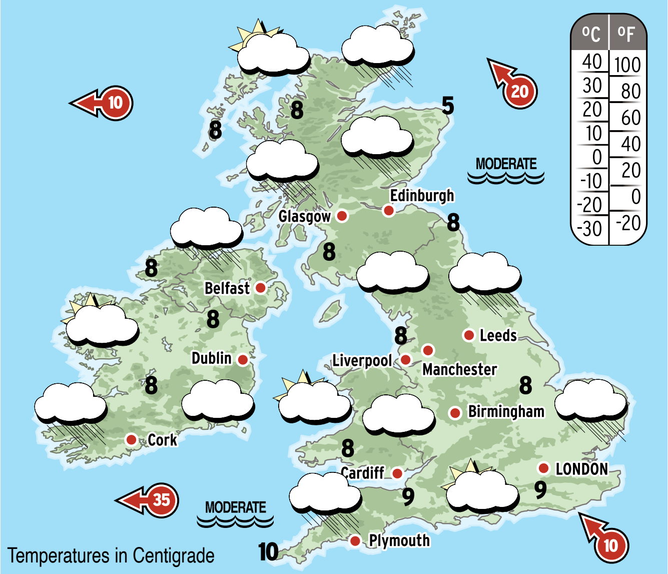
He claimed Britain was stronger due to Brexit and blamed the Tories and Labour for not taking full

TURN TO PAGE 4

## Jess like that! Star wins another gong

SEE PAGE 11

# WEATHER FORECAST



Temperatures in Centigrade

## Today's summary: Cloudy morning, breezy evening

**North West:** Cloudy with drizzle early on. Dry with cloud later. Breezy winds, staying cool. High 8C (46F).

**Northern Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with a scattering of light showers. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

**Wales:** Cloudy, turning wet later. Brisk winds from the southeast. Chilly throughout the day. High 8C (46F).

**Midlands:** Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, mainly later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

**North East/Yorks:** Largely cloudy with scattered slow-moving showers. Light winds. High 7C (45F).

**Scotland:** Overcast with occasional drizzle. Clearing later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 8C (46F).

**East Anglia:** Mostly cloudy with the chance of a few scattered showers. Gentle southerly winds. High 8C (46F).

**London/South East:** Cloudy and damp with patchy light rain or drizzle. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

**South:** Mainly dull with drizzle, especially later. Moderate northerly winds. High 8C (46F).

**South West:** Dull and grey with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

**Channel Isles:** Damp and overcast with drizzle or light rain at times. Brisk westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

**Sea:** North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

**UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW:** Expect mostly cloudy skies with occasional light rain. Winds will be moderate, temperatures cool. Brief sunny spells possible later.

## SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

| | TUE | min | max | WED | min | max | THU | min | max | FRI | min | max | SAT | min | max | SUN | min | max |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **London** | 🌧 | 6 | 6 | ⛅ | 5 | 11 | 🌧 | 5 | 10 | 🌧 | 4 | 9 | 🌦 | 5 | 10 | 🌦 | 5 | 9 |
| **Belfast** | 🌧 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 6 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 5 | 7 | 🌧 | 5 | 7 |
| **Birmingham** | 🌧 | 4 | 4 | 🌧 | 4 | 9 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌧 | 4 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 |
| **Cardiff** | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌦 | 5 | 9 | 🌧 | 5 | 9 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌦 | 4 | 8 | 🌧 | 5 | 9 |
| **Glasgow** | 🌧 | 3 | 6 | 🌧 | 4 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌧 | 3 | 6 | 🌧 | 3 | 7 | 🌧 | 3 | 7 |
| **Manchester** | 🌧 | 4 | 5 | 🌧 | 5 | 9 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 | 🌨 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 5 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 8 |
| **Newcastle** | 🌧 | 3 | 4 | 🌧 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 3 | 6 | 🌧 | 3 | 5 | 🌧 | 3 | 6 | 🌧 | 4 | 6 |
| **Norwich** | 🌧 | 5 | 6 | ⛅ | 4 | 9 | 🌧 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 4 | 6 | 🌧 | 4 | 7 | 🌧 | 4 | 7 |
| **Plymouth** | 🌦 | 7 | 10 | 🌦 | 8 | 10 | 🌧 | 7 | 10 | 🌧 | 6 | 10 | 🌦 | 6 | 10 | 🌧 | 6 | 10 |

## Britain yesterday

| 24 hours to 5pm | SUN (hrs) | RAIN (ins) | TEMP (min) | (max) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aberdeen** | 0.0 | 0.26 | 6 | 7 |
| **Aberporth** | 0.5 | 0.22 | 2 | 8 |
| **Alnwick** | 0.5 | 0.17 | 5 | 8 |
| **Belfast** | 1.2 | 0.02 | 3 | 8 |
| **Birmingham** | 0.0 | 0.04 | 5 | 8 |
| **B'mouth** | 0.1 | 0.52 | 2 | 9 |
| **Bristol** | 0.0 | 0.54 | 6 | 9 |
| **Cardiff** | 0.6 | 0.35 | 6 | 8 |
| **Durham** | 0.5 | 0.09 | 5 | 8 |
| **Edinburgh** | 1.7 | 0.00 | 4 | 8 |
| **Glasgow** | 0.2 | 0.12 | 5 | 7 |
| **Hull** | 0.1 | 0.04 | 6 | 7 |
| **Ipswich** | 0.0 | 0.13 | 5 | 8 |
| **Leeds** | 0.1 | 0.05 | 4 | 8 |
| **Lincoln** | 0.1 | 0.05 | 3 | 8 |
| **London** | 0.0 | 0.13 | 6 | 9 |
| **Manchester** | 0.0 | 0.11 | 3 | 8 |
| **Oxford** | 0.0 | 0.20 | 3 | 8 |
| **S'hampton** | 0.0 | 0.23 | 7 | 9 |
| **St Andrews** | 0.3 | 0.02 | 6 | 7 |

### Moon, sun and tides

**MOON** rises: 5.42pm, sets: 8.06am
**SUN** rises London: 7.37am, sets: 4.52pm
**Manchester** rises: 7.52am, sets: 4.53pm

**Last Quarter**
09 February

**HIGH TIDE**

| | |
|---|---|
| London B'ge | (1.55am), (2.16pm) |
| Liverpool | (11.25am), (11.52pm) |
| Greenock | (12.41am), (12.38pm) |
| Dover | (11.34am), (11.48pm) |

**Britain Extremes:**
(24 hours to 11pm Saturday)

**Warmest:** Exeter Airport, 12c (53f).
**Coldest:** Santon Downham, 0c (33f).
**Wettest:** Lake Vyrnwy, 0.93ins.
**Sunniest:** Leconfield, 5.8hrs.

### Lighting-up times

| | |
|---|---|
| Belfast | 5.04pm-8.09am |
| Birmingham | 4.55pm-7.45am |
| Bristol | 5.01pm-7.45am |
| Glasgow | 4.52pm-8.07am |
| London | 4.52pm-7.35am |
| Manchester | 4.53pm-7.50am |
| Newcastle | 4.45pm-7.53am |

## Europe forecast

**Today**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Amsterdam** | Rain | 5C/41F |
| **Brussels** | Rain | 10C/50F |
| **Dublin** | Cloudy | 8C/46F |
| **Frankfurt** | Sleet | 5C/41F |
| **Geneva** | Rain | 9C/48F |
| **Lisbon** | Thunder | 13C/55F |
| **Madrid** | Rain | 10C/50F |
| **Paris** | Rain | 11C/52F |
| **Rome** | Sunny | 14C/57F |

**Tomorrow**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Amsterdam** | Sleet | 3C/37F |
| **Brussels** | Rain | 9C/48F |
| **Dublin** | Rain | 7C/45F |
| **Frankfurt** | Sleet | 4C/39F |
| **Geneva** | Showers | 10C/50F |
| **Lisbon** | Thunder | 13C/55F |
| **Madrid** | Rain | 9C/48F |
| **Paris** | Showers | 11C/52F |
| **Rome** | Showers | 15C/59F |

## Around the world yesterday

| | | C | F |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amsterdam | Drizzle | 6 | 43 |
| Athens | Shwrs | 13 | 55 |
| Barcelona | Shwrs | 10 | 50 |
| Berlin | Cloudy | -8 | 18 |
| Budapest | Cloudy | 0 | 32 |
| Cairo | Fair | 26 | 79 |
| Cape Town | Sunny | 27 | 81 |
| Casablanca | Fair | 18 | 64 |
| Corfu | Rain | 15 | 59 |
| Dublin | Rain | 6 | 43 |
| Dubrovnik | Fair | 13 | 55 |
| Faro | Cloudy | 16 | 61 |
| Florence | Fair | 12 | 54 |
| Gibraltar | Cloudy | 16 | 61 |
| Guernsey | Cloudy | 10 | 50 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 16 | 61 |
| Istanbul | Cloudy | 8 | 46 |
| Jersey | Fair | 10 | 50 |
| Larnaca | Fair | 19 | 66 |
| Las Palmas | Sunny | 21 | 70 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 27 | 81 |
| Luxor | Sunny | 27 | 81 |
| Malaga | Fair | 16 | 61 |
| Mallorca | Fair | 16 | 61 |
| Malta | Fair | 16 | 61 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | 21 | 70 |
| Miami | Rain | 17 | 63 |
| Moscow | Snow | -19 | -2 |
| Nairobi | Sunny | 26 | 79 |
| New Delhi | Sunny | 19 | 66 |
| New York | Sunny | -7 | 19 |
| Nice | Fair | 13 | 55 |
| Nicosia | Cloudy | 18 | 64 |
| Perth | Sunny | 33 | 91 |
| Prague | Cloudy | -4 | 25 |
| Singapore | Sunny | 31 | 88 |
| Stockholm | Snow | -5 | 23 |
| Sydney | Shwrs | 25 | 77 |
| Tel Aviv | Sunny | 28 | 82 |
| Tenerife | Sunny | 22 | 72 |
| Toronto | Cloudy | -12 | 10 |
| Tunis | Thndr | 14 | 57 |
| Venice | Sunny | 9 | 48 |
| Vienna | Snow | -3 | 27 |
| Warsaw | Sunny | -10 | 14 |

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# 'We may sue over eye test rule for over-70s'

BY **JONATHAN WALKER** Whitehall Editor

CAMPAIGNERS are threatening to take the government to court over plans to make older motorists take special eye tests to keep their licence.

Any new road safety rules should apply to drivers of all ages, according to pressure group Silver Voices.

But instead, it said ministers have "singled out" people over 70.

The group, which has 11,000 members, is not opposing the principle of eye tests but described the policy as "fundamentally discriminatory" and pointed out that the Equalities Act protects older people.

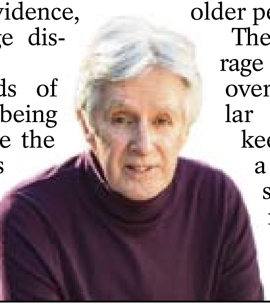
It also warned banning older drivers could prevent them seeing a doctor or buying essential groceries.

In an official response to a government consultation, it said: "Silver Voices urges the Department for Transport to consult the Equalities and Human Rights Commission before implementing this policy, otherwise it might be challenged in the courts."

Ministers propose regular vision tests for the over-70s in a bid to reduce deaths on the road

Director Dennis Reed said: "This is another example of a policy being announced without the necessary back-up research being done. Picking out the age of 70 for stricter testing without any substantive evidence, is likely to contravene age discrimination legislation.

"Hundreds of thousands of careful older drivers face being driven off the road because the implementation process has not been thought through, either because they can't get a test in time, they can't afford it, or the test is set at an unreasonably high level not applied to other drivers. This unworthy and cruel proposal should be withdrawn."



Dennis Reed challenges legality

Silver Voices has called for a full impact study to consider the effect on older people.

The government sparked outrage after it announced drivers over 70 will need to pass regular vision tests in order to keep their licence, as part of a drive to cut deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads by 65% by 2035.

Four people die in traffic accidents every day, with thousands more seriously injured each year. Ministers are also considering requiring older drivers to undergo "cognitive testing", as part of a plan to improve road safety.

The government's Road Safety Strategy also includes a consultation on lowering the drink-drive limit in England and Wales, which has remained unchanged since 1967.

A spokesperson said: "We know driving can be important for older people's wellbeing. Older drivers who are fit to drive and have good enough vision have nothing to worry about from this announcement. Those who cannot see well enough to drive safely should not be on the road."

## CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION **12** SUDOKU **24** TV **33** LETTERS **38** STARS **40** SPORT **43** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

**Nathan Rault playfully squares up with son Harri. Inset, dad in action in Belfast**

# Land of the rising sumo

**Women's bout in full throw. Above, men primed**

BY **JERRY LAWTON**

BRITAIN'S hottest new sports craze is a giant surprise – sumo wrestling.

The number of clubs for super-sized scufflers has shot up eight-fold in three years.

And it's being fuelled by social media after scores of grappling videos went viral.

Organisers said interest in the traditional Japanese sport exploded after a Royal Albert Hall tournament in London last year featuring the biggest and best in the business. It was only the second time in its 1,500-year history the Grand Sumo event was held outside of Japan.

And it inspired a host of first-timers to give it a go, leading to the inaugural British Isles Sumo Championships taking place in Belfast over the weekend.

More than 60 men and women took part and, at just £5 a ticket, offered epic fare. Scott Findlay, an ex-champion who founded British Sumo in 2023, said there were now 16 clubs across the home nations compared with two in England three years ago. He added: "It is one of Britain's fastest-growing sports. I was sick of seeing it abused as a comedic pub act you would hire for a entertainment.

"It should be respected as the serious sport that it actually is."

## Family

It's also one for all ages, with wrestler Nathan Rault getting into a playful battle stance with son Harri before entering the ring, while fellow competitor Chris Mitchell-Lay, known as "Haystacks", warmed up with a burrito and a pint of Guinness.

Chris, 32, from Larkhall, Scotland, said: "It's like a big family. You cry on each other. You'll bleed on each other."

Chris Mitchell-Lay, who is known as 'Haystacks'

## TORY BLASTS STARMER'S BID

# ‘Handing power back to Europe will not grow our economy, lower prices or control immigration. A proper Brexit means standing up for democratic control’

FROM PAGE ONE

advantage of the opportunities that it offered.

He added: “Our failure to capitalise on the economic benefits of Brexit is down to the sheer incompetence of successive Conservative and Labour governments.

“But on the world stage there can be no doubt Britain stands far taller now that we are no longer tied to the European Union.”

Shadow Foreign Secretary Dame Priti Patel said Sir Keir had given up any pretence of accepting the voters’ verdict: “Ten years after the referendum, Keir Starmer is still arguing with the British people.”

With key elections in Wales, Scotland and councils just 12 weeks away, the PM has been accused of reawakening old Brexit differences to woo Reform voters.

Speaking to the Express, the Prime Minister said he planned more deals with the EU on defence, energy policy and trade – and claimed that Reform’s leader had misled voters.

He said: “As far as Nigel Farage is concerned, let us remind ourselves that he said if we left the EU it would be £350million a week for the NHS – that didn’t happen.

“He said if we left the EU there would be less red tape for trading into Europe – try telling that to any business that is trading into Europe.

“He said if we left the EU regular migration would go down – it quadrupled under the ‘Boris wave’. So I wouldn’t listen too much to what Nigel Farage has to say.”

**EXPRESS CRUSADE**
**GIVE US A PROPER BREXIT**

The NHS pledge was made by the official Leave campaign, backed by Tory ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson and former Labour MP Gisela Stuart. Mr Farage was part of a separate campaign.

Collared by the Express en route from Shanghai to Tokyo on a trade visit, Sir Keir blamed the Tories for a flatlining economy, rising unemployment and an increase in the cost of living under his watch.

He said: “It is absolutely clear the botched deal we got from the last government has caused damage to our economy which is why we have reset that relationship and do want to get closer on defence and security, on energy, on emissions and trade.”

The PM claimed a deal with the EU on food and agriculture would lead to lower shop prices.

But Dame Priti said it was essential to complete Brexit by leaving the European Convention on Human Rights, a key demand of the Express crusade Give Us a Proper Brexit.

She added: “Treaties, conventions and foreign courts continue to constrain Parliament, override our laws and frustrate enforcement. That is why the Conservatives, now alongside the Daily Express, are right to say the time has come to leave the ECHR and restore full democratic control.

“Starmer wants to rewind Brexit. Handing power back to European technocrats will not grow our economy, lower prices or control immigration. A proper Brexit means standing up for democratic control.”

Eurosceptic Labour MP Graham Stringer, writing in the Express today, said that Brexit “betrayal must not be tolerated”.

Our campaign, in the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the referendum in June, is backed by political heavyweights including Mr Farage, Mr Johnson, Tory leader Kemi Badenoch and Brexit champion Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg. As well as giving Britain full control over its borders by leaving the ECHR, it calls for the slashing of red tape for firms and enforcement of a 12-mile exclusion zone around the UK where only British boats can fish.

Sir Keir has pushed for closer economic links with the EU since taking power in 2024, cranking up

Tory MP Dame Priti Patel hit out

## COMMENT

### GRAHAM STRINGER

**Labour MP**

**SIX years ago, we left the European Union. This followed the largest vote in our democratic history, in the Brexit Referendum.**

**The majority for leaving was over one and a quarter million.**

**The case for Brexit was straightforward. The people who make our laws should be elected by the people of the United Kingdom. Prior to leaving, most of our laws were made in Brussels.**

**The debate had been intense and occasionally rancorous, but people from both sides agreed they would honour the result even if the majority was one.**

**Many leading Labour and Conservative politicians immediately and disgracefully dishonoured this promise. For instance, many members of today’s Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, as well as ex-Conservative Cabinet ministers Dominic Grieve and Justine Greening, did not accept the result: they wanted to overturn the referendum with another vote.**

**This is like losing on the toss of a coin and immediately demanding the best of three. Fortunately, they didn’t succeed, and after innumerable knife-edge votes in the**

PM Sir Keir Starmer visits Shanghai before speaking exclusively to the Daily Express

## Look who's back with £1m war chest to fund a leadership bid

**ANGELA Rayner is understood to have raised at least £1million to fund a bid for the Labour leadership, while potential rival candidates also gather support.**

**The former Deputy PM, *left*, launched a "charm offensive" to win over potential donors and has already received "firm pledges", according to reports.**

**And Ms Rayner has reportedly set up a new business called The Office of Angela Rayner Ltd.**

**Health Secretary Wes Streeting is also understood to be "war gaming" plans for a challenge.**

Reform hopeful Matt Goodwin, centre, with his party leader Nigel Farage and supporters

# Reform win in poll 'will make PM quit'

EXCLUSIVE

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

REFORM UK's Matt Goodwin labelled the Gorton and Denton by-election a "referendum on Keir Starmer" as he vowed to fight for its Brexit voters.

The academic turned candidate said the Tories and Labour had sold out voters who wanted to regain control of our borders.

Mr Goodwin claimed a Reform win in the Greater Manchester seat would mean the PM had to resign. He said: "Taxes are up, unemployment is up, energy bills are up, the cost-of-living crisis is getting worse."

He said he was "sick and tired of what has happened to this once great country". Blasting the government's record on immigration, he added: "The number of small boats illegally crossing the Channel has never been higher. There are [houses in multiple occupation] in this constituency housing illegal migrants, paid for by its hard-working people."

Mr Goodwin claimed voters in the area "feel ignored", adding: "They are saying 'enough is enough', and I agree.

"This by-election is a chance for the hardworking, law-abiding, taxpaying people of this constituency to make history...it is a referendum on Keir Starmer and his hopeless government.

"And when we win, he will have no choice but to stand down."

Immigration and higher bills are the key messages of the campaign, with Mr Goodwin suggesting: "A vote for Labour is a vote for Keir Starmer and more of the same uncontrolled mass immigration, broken borders, record high taxes, surging energy bills."

Labour, he adds, has "effectively given up on pretending they respect the Brexit vote. Starmer is edging Britain back under EU control with a customs deal and a proposed uncapped UK-EU youth mobility scheme that weakens our borders."

He revealed: "This city gave me my first start in life, a purpose. I want to give something back."

The February 26 by-election was triggered by the resignation of Andrew Gwynne – who was sitting as an independent after his suspension from the Labour Party – on ill-health grounds.

Labour's candidate is Manchester city councillor Angeliki Stogia, ex-detective Charlotte Cadden is standing for the Tories, the Lib Dems have put up local campaigner Jackie Pearcey while the Green Party has picked plumber Hannah Spencer, *inset above*.

The Tories hit out at Reform for supporting "higher welfare spending and nationalising British industry".

Labour said voters had a choice – "unity and change with Labour, or division and risk with Reform".

**House of Commons and a General Election, England, Scotland and Wales departed (sadly, Northern Ireland still has its laws and regulations made by the EU).**

**The uber-Remainers did not give up. They decided to put their anti-democratic energies into two new tactics. Every opportunity is taken to blame Brexit for our poor economic performance. This is also useful camouflage for the Chancellor, as it absolves her of responsibility for our less than ideal growth rate.**

**On examination, the claims about Brexit fall apart. Members of the Cabinet state as gospel that Brexit has caused a 4% loss of productivity. This is taken from an Office of Budget Responsibility prediction of what they believe will happen in 15 years' time. It ignores the impact of the Ukraine War, President Trump's tariffs and Covid.**

**Stealth is the second tactic, voluntarily realigning us with European laws and regulations and rejoining European schemes at disproportionate costs. Most threatening of all, the government has given itself power to automatically align with European regulations and laws without a debate in the House of Commons, in the powerful but obscure Product Regulation and Metrology Act.**

**Escaping the over-regulated and failing EU was an act of self-belief by the British people. Its betrayal must not be tolerated.**

his plot to reverse Brexit – despite a manifesto vow not to rejoin the EU single market or customs union.

Europe minister Nick Thomas-Symonds and Business Secretary Peter Kyle will hold talks on EU alignment with European counterparts tomorrow, while the next UK-EU summit is expected in May. The UK is already lining up with Brussels on some rules around food and agriculture to allow access to Europe's economic trading zone.

Joining the single market would eliminate trade tariffs between Britain and the EU, but Westminster would have to follow rules set by Brussels and accept free movement. Cabinet members have suggested rejoining the customs union.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting and Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy have said that would boost economic growth as Labour struggles to deliver increased GDP.

Sir Keir also revealed he still wanted to join a costly EU defence project. He hopes to restart talks on taking part in the £130billion Security Action For Europe fund even though his government hesitated at the high price demanded.

Mr Thomas-Symonds told MPs last week: "I always said throughout the negotiation that I would only sign up to things that involved value for money."

But Sir Keir said if the price was right he would be happy to join the scheme, which provides loans to governments for rearmament in the wake of the war in Ukraine and so helps defence firms. "On spend, capability and co-operation we need to do more together," he added.

The UK formally left the EU's single market and customs union at 11pm on December 31, 2020. In the June 2016 referendum, 52% voted Leave, with 48% Remain.

OPINION: PAGE 12

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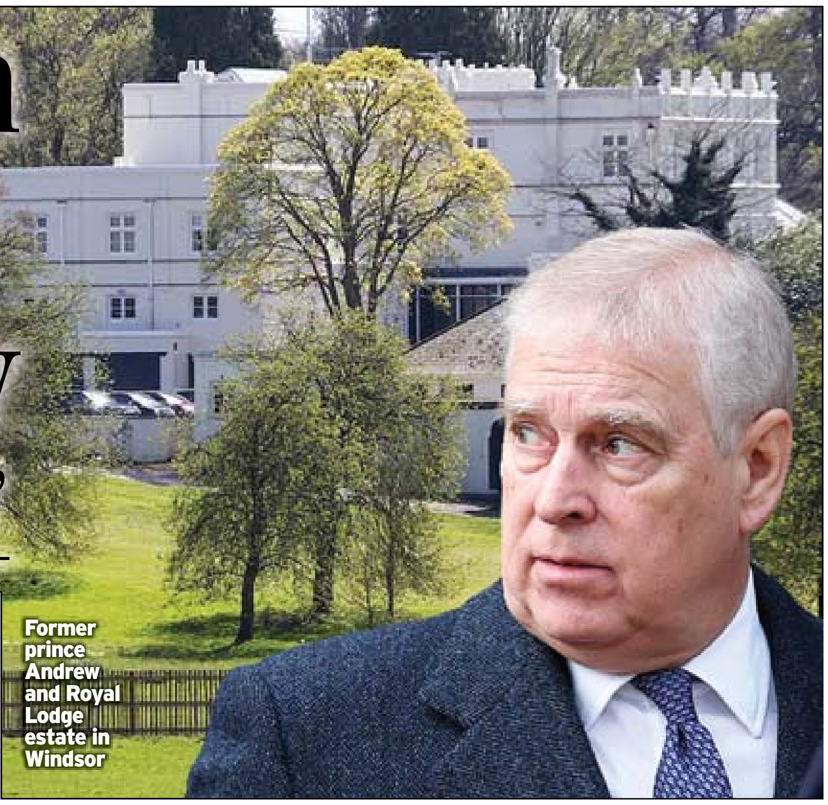
# New Epstein woman claims she was sent for sex with Andrew

## ‘Palace tour after night at Royal Lodge’



Former prince Andrew and Royal Lodge estate in Windsor

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

A SECOND woman has claimed that Jeffrey Epstein sent her to Britain for a sexual encounter with Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.

The alleged encounter is said to have occurred at the disgraced former prince’s Windsor residence Royal Lodge in 2010.

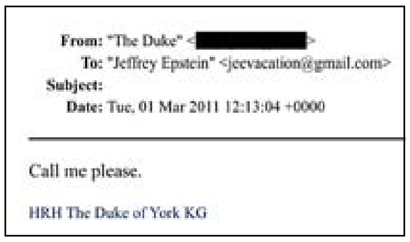
The woman, who has not been named and is not British, was in her 20s at the time.

Her lawyer, Brad Edwards, said that after allegedly spending the night with Andrew, she claims she was given a tour of Buckingham Palace.

Mr Edwards said: “We’re talking about at least one woman who was sent by Jeffrey Epstein over to Prince Andrew.

“And she even had, after a night with Prince Andrew, a tour of Buckingham Palace.”

Mr Edwards has represented more than 200 survivors of convicted sex offender Epstein, as well as the late Virginia Giuffre who claimed that she was brought to London to have sex with the former prince in 2001 when she was 17.



From: "The Duke" <[redacted]>
To: "Jeffrey Epstein" <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject:
Date: Tue, 01 Mar 2011 12:13:04 +0000

Call me please.

HRH The Duke of York KG

An email seen in the released Epstein files

Andrew has strenuously denied any wrongdoing. But the former prince, 65, was under mounting pressure last night to testify before a US investigation into Epstein.

The former Duke of York appears to feature in a series of shocking photos released among more than three million files related to the case of Epstein by the US Department of Justice.

Cabinet minister Steve Reed was asked on Sky News yesterday if the government would comply with an extradition request from the US for the former duke, should one be made.

Mr Reed said: “The principle here is very, very clear.

“Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor clearly has insight into what was going on, and he should testify, because the victims deserve and need him, and anybody else who may have witnessed things, to do that.” His call echoed the words of Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on Saturday. Sir Keir said: “Anybody who has got information should be prepared to share that information in whatever form they are asked.”

The latest released Epstein files suggest that King Charles’s brother maintained regular contact with the late financier for more than two years after he was convicted of child sex crimes in 2008.

Andrew, who was pictured riding a horse on the royal estate in Windsor with a female companion on Saturday, has not commented on whether he intends to testify following the latest release of files.

Meanwhile, Peter Mandelson, the former UK ambassador to the US, said he has “no recollection” of receiving sums of money mentioned in the latest Epstein files, and said he does “not know if the documents are authentic”.

The files showed that Epstein allegedly wired cash after Lord Mandelson’s husband asked him to pay for his osteopathy course fees.

Epstein sent £55,000 in payments to accounts linked to Lord Mandelson, bank statements released by the US Department of Justice suggest. The Conservatives last night called on the PM to suspend Lord Mandelson’s membership of the Labour Party over his links to Epstein, who died by suicide in 2019 while awaiting trial for sex trafficking.

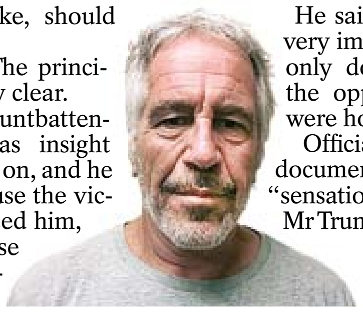
Leader Kemi Badenoch wrote on X: “If Keir Starmer had a backbone he would suspend Mandelson’s membership of the Labour Party and launch an immediate investigation into how Mandelson and his husband were being sent money by the convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. This is an international scandal.”

Donald Trump also responded to the latest Epstein files, claiming they “absolve” him of any wrongdoing.

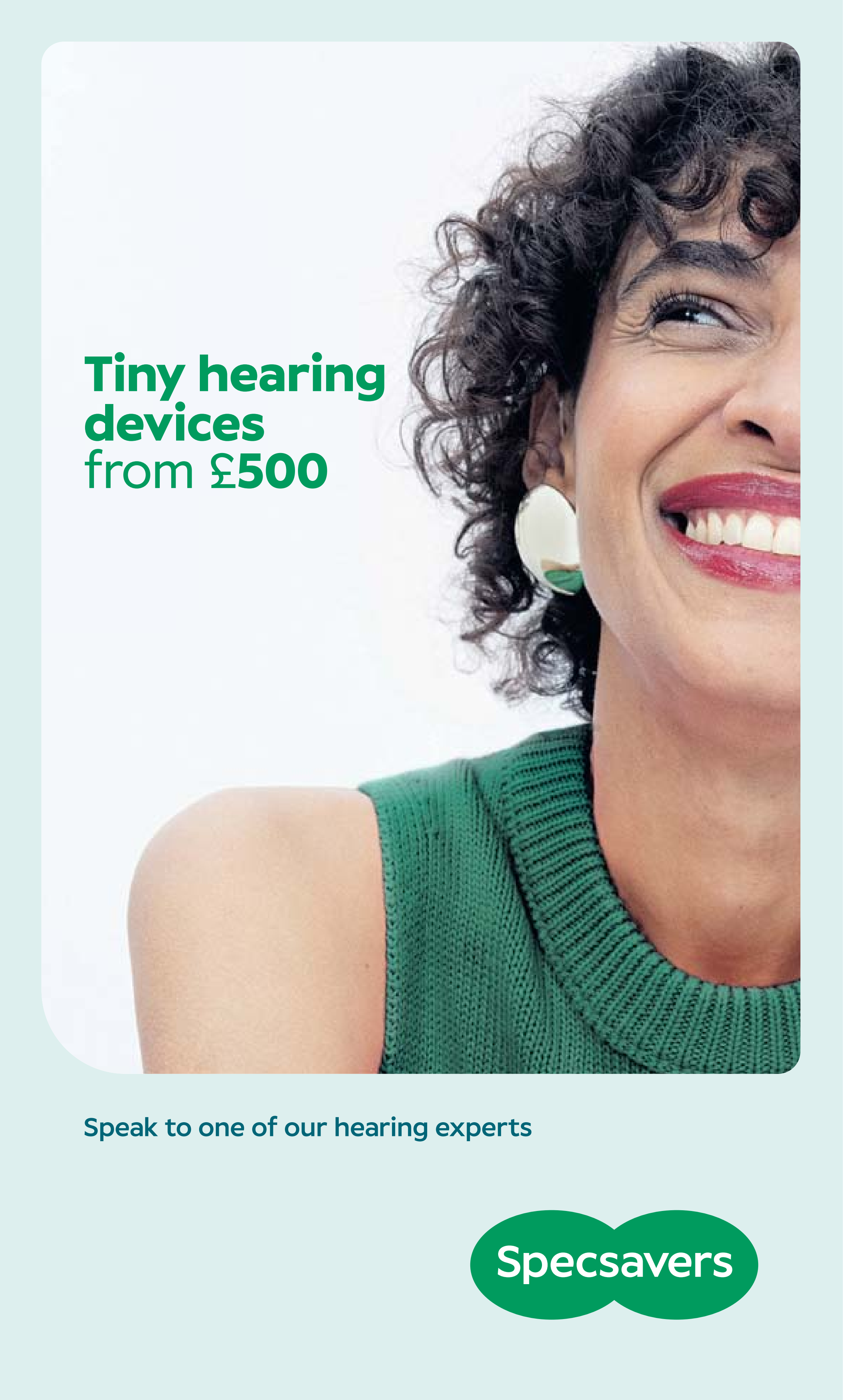
The US president is mentioned more than 3,000 times in the files.

He said: “I was told by some very important people that not only does it absolve me, it’s the opposite of what people were hoping.”

Officials had warned that the documents may include “sensationalist” claims about Mr Trump.



The convicted US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein



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## NURSE TELLS U.S. NOT TO MAKE SAME MISTAKES

# ‘Women should never have to go to court to defend their right to single sex spaces. That is why our story matters internationally’

Nurse Bethany at Heathrow on way to the US yesterday

EXCLUSIVE

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

LABOUR faces humiliation in the US for failing to tackle radical gender ideology, as a trailblazing UK nurse addresses an influential summit in Washington DC.

American lawmakers will be told that ministerial indifference is letting a woke agenda infiltrate and spread through the UK public sector, putting women at risk.

The warning will be given by Bethany Hutchison, who led a watershed victory over NHS bosses regarding biological sex.

Mum-of-two Mrs Hutchison said: “Our story has become a warning not just to Britain but now to America, of what happens when ideology overtakes common sense, safeguarding and basic human dignity.

“My message to America is simple: ‘Do not wait until your institutions are captured before you start fighting back’.

“Women should never have to go to court to defend biological reality or their right to single-sex spaces. That is why our story matters internationally.”

Mrs Hutchison, 36, and six colleagues were ruled to be victims of harassment and sex discrimination after County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust allowed a biological male trans woman to undress in front them.

Bethany, third right, and her six colleagues in the victory over NHS bossses

This week Mrs Hutchison will deliver a keynote speech at the She Leads the Nations Global Summit on Capitol Hill in front of leading Republicans including Florida congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, who serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Christian anti-abortion activist Brandi Swindell.

Mrs Hutchison, originally from Washington, Tyne and Wear, was asked to speak as a “warning to America” after news of her victory spread. She will attend with Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, to tell how the nurses defended their right to single-sex spaces.

An employment tribunal had heard they were “penalised” for complaining that a man identifying as a woman used their changing room – but it said letting men in women’s spaces was unlawful.

Its landmark verdict came after the Supreme Court said a person’s legal sex is the one they were biologically assigned at birth. Mrs Hutchison said: “Women deserve access to single-sex spaces without fear or intimidation.

“We will keep fighting until every woman in the NHS is guaranteed the dignity and protection she deserves.”

Despite the court decision, the government has sat on an updated code of practice drawn up by the Equality and Human Rights Commission since September.

As she flew out, Mrs Hutchison criticised Health Secretary Wes Streeting for the failure to act, saying: “Continued delay has left NHS trusts operating in a legal vacuum, exposing nurses to unnecessary risk. The law is now clear; the guidance must follow.”

Mrs Williams said: “Institutions across the UK must now urgently review and overhaul every policy that has replaced biological reality with gender identity ideology.

“Workers who raised legitimate safeguarding concerns have been silenced, punished or driven out of their jobs. The government must now act at speed to ensure this never happens again.”

A government spokesman said: “The EHRC has submitted a draft code of practice to ministers, and we are working at pace to review it with the care it deserves. ”

OPINION: PAGE 12

## COMMENT

### BETHANY HUTCHISON

**Victorious Darlington nurses’ leader**

**I NEVER imagined that a frontline NHS nurse from the original Washington, a town in the North East of England, would one day find herself flying to Washington DC to speak on an international stage.**

**Yet this week, that is exactly where I am headed, alongside Andrea Williams of the Christian Legal Centre who has supported our case from the beginning, following the landmark legal ruling that vindicated a group of ordinary nurses who simply asked not to have to undress in front of a male colleague.**

**Our story has travelled far beyond Darlington Memorial Hospital. It has become a warning, not just to Britain, but now to America, of what happens when ideology overtakes common sense, safeguarding, and basic human dignity.**

**For more than two-and-a-half years my colleagues and I asked our NHS Trust (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust) for something that should never have been up for debate: the right for women to have a female-only changing room. Instead, we were told to “broaden our mindset,” get “educated,” and accept a biological male in our private space, or else.**

### Dignity

**Some of my colleagues, including survivors of abuse, were re-traumatised. All of us were ignored, intimidated and put at further risk.**

**When the employment tribunal ruled earlier this month that what happened to us was unlawful harassment, that our dignity had been violated, it should never have felt like a groundbreaking victory. But it did. And that fact alone is alarming to say the least.**

**As I prepare to address the She Leads conference in Washington, I go not as a campaigner, but as an ordinary nurse who was pushed into extraordinary circumstances along with my courageous colleagues who I could not do this without.**

**If this can happen in the UK, a country once known for its robust safeguarding, its clear understanding of biological reality and as the home of freedom of speech, then no nation is immune.**

**My message to America is simple: do not wait until your institutions are captured before you start fighting back. Women should never have to go to court to defend biological reality or their right to single-sex spaces.**

**This is not a British problem. It is a Western problem. It is a cultural problem. It is a truth problem. And it demands a response.**

● *Bethany Hutchison is President of the Darlington Nursing Union*

# £744m migrant social care bill

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

COUNCILS are spending £744million a year on social care for asylum seekers in what campaigners call a ticking time bomb for town hall budgets.

The soaring costs – including funds for interpreters and services to help asylum seekers obtain healthcare, housing, education and legal services – were revealed in a report by the TaxPayers' Alliance.

Anne Strickland, the pressure group's researcher, said: "Taxpayers have watched on with dismay at the failure of successive governments to get a grip on this issue, knowing that they will inevitably end up picking up the tab.

"With councils essentially helpless in the face of this ongoing crisis, it's imperative that Whitehall urgently finds a way to stop the migration crisis."

The sum is on top of government spending on accommodation plus legal costs for cases.

Research found local authority spending on social care for adult asylum seekers is up by 165% since 2019-20, from £50.6m to £133.9m.

Councils spent £287.2m on children who remain with their families plus £322.6m on unaccompanied youngsters. Total spending on social care for asylum seekers was almost £744m in 2024-25.

Kent County Council had the biggest bill at £41.6m, up from £9.9m in 2019-20, while Hampshire spent £23.9m and Manchester's total was £23.2m.

Councils face a shortfall across their total budgets of more than £4billion this year, threatening cuts to services.

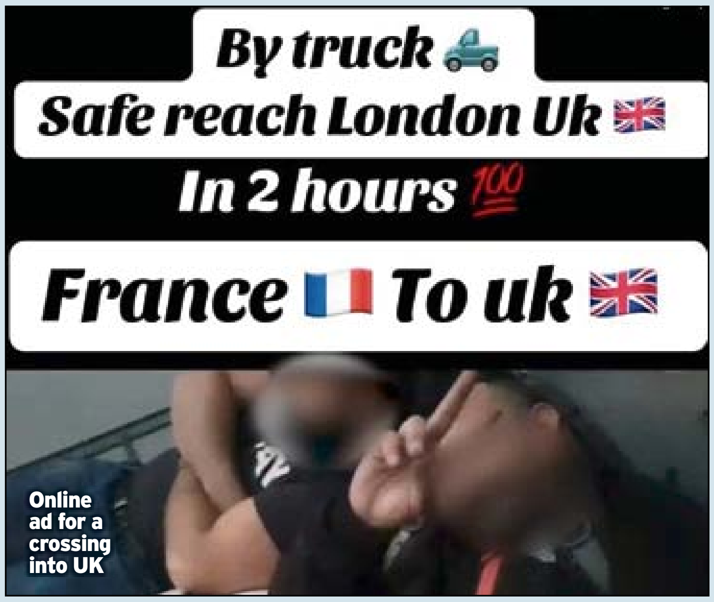
Analysis by the Local Government Association found growing demand for social care is a major cause of shortfalls.

A government spokesperson said: "We don't recognise these figures. This government has reduced asylum support costs by nearly a billion since the general election. The government has made almost £78 billion available to councils next year so that the most deprived communities benefit."

Meanwhile, ministers have asked retired judges to oversee asylum tribunals to cut a backlog of 80,000 cases.

Another 86 judges have been recruited, with 100 more to come. The Home Office directly spent £4bn on asylum support in the last financial year including £2.7bn on accommodation, as lodged asylum claims hit a record of more than 109,000.

Labour has set out plans to speed up asylum appeals and the removal of people whose applications are refused.



**Online ad for a crossing into UK**

## Crackdown launched on 'truly sickening' online crossings ads

BY **WILL MEAKIN-DURRANT** and **DAVID LYNCH**

**SOCIAL media users who tout illegal routes into the UK face up to five years in prison, starting from today.**

**The Home Office will activate part of the Border Security Act, passed last year, to crack down on adverts telling migrants how they can circumvent immigration checks.**

**Border security minister Alex Norris said his message to people smugglers is: "We are coming after you."**

**The National Crime Agency will trawl through thousands of social media accounts as part of the crackdown.**

**It is thought so-called "service agents", operators who link migrants up with facilitators for crossings, could be targeted with the new powers.**

**Mr Norris said: "Social media ads promoting the corrupt promise of a life and work in the UK are truly sickening.**

**"To the people smugglers peddling this content, whether you are selling your vile trade online through 'golden package deals', supplying boat equipment or researching routes, we are coming after you. I will not stop until we've restored order and control to our borders."**

**One post said, "By truck, safe reach London UK" in two hours from France.**

**EXPRESS VOTE**

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Uncertainty for social sector

# Care staff in limbo over right to stay in Britain

BY **HARRY TAYLOR**

MINISTERS do not know how many NHS staff will be impacted by changes to immigration rules, one has admitted amid a consultation on reforms.

The government is planning to extend the period needed for people to get settled status after they arrive in the UK. Indefinite leave to remain will be granted only after 10 years and if a specific set of circumstances are met.

Doctors and nurses working in the NHS have exemptions from the proposed new rules.

However, staff working in social care and private healthcare – which has had NHS cases contracted out to it to cut down backlogs – will be affected.

Labour MPs, including Neil Duncan-Jordan, have criticised the approach as pandering to Reform and "un-British".

## Error

In response to his written parliamentary question, health minister Karin Smyth said: "The department does not hold information on the number of existing National Health Service workers nationally who could be affected by proposed changes to the rules on indefinite leave to remain."

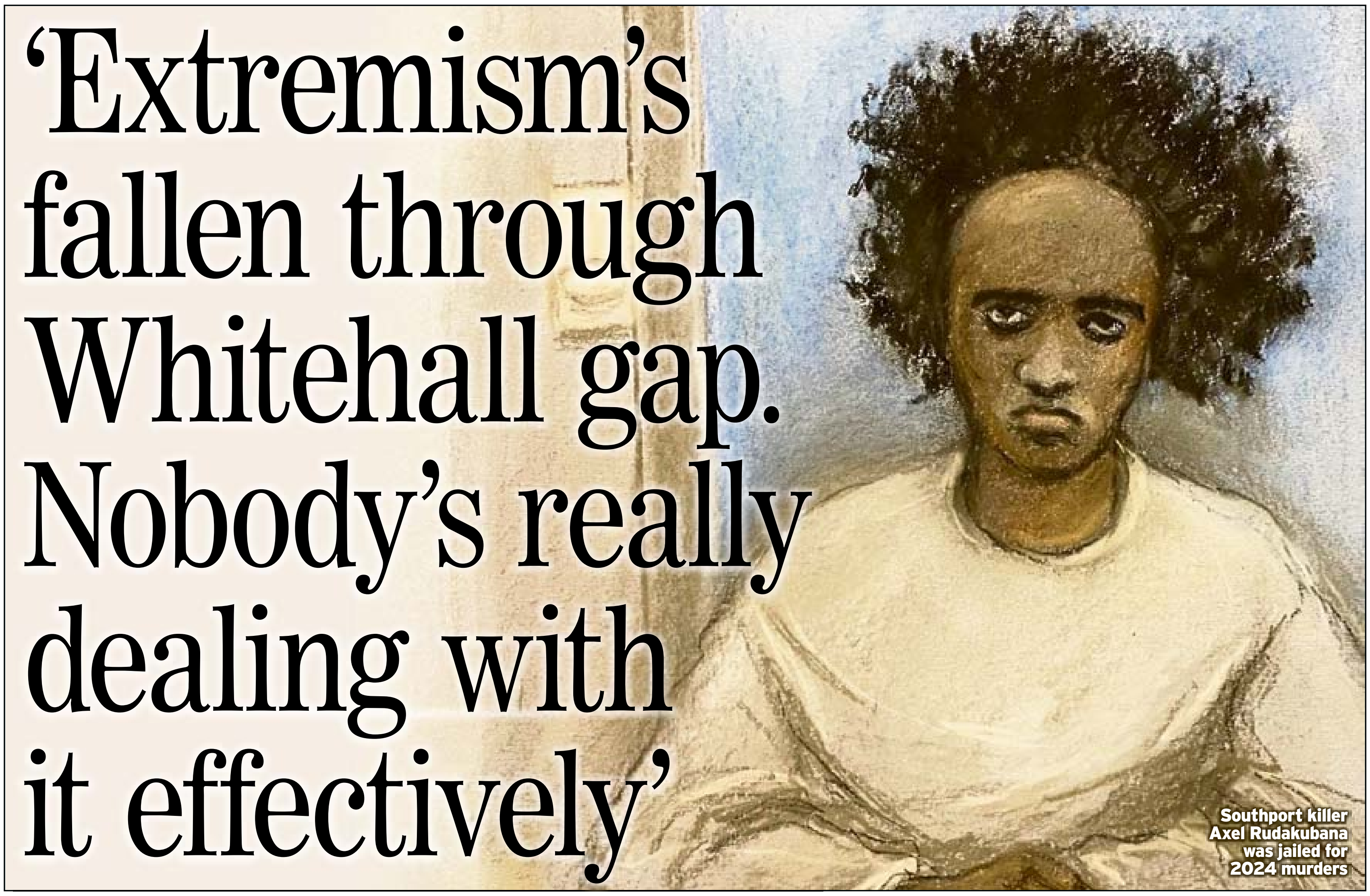
The policy, with a 10-year wait replacing five, was announced last year as Labour sought to toughen its credentials on immigration and cut the number of people arriving in the UK.

Trade body the Royal College of Nursing said the current plans would be a "grave error", while the Unison union said the proposal would split parts of the NHS into "high and low skilled".

The Department for Health and Social Care said it was important the NHS is not "over-reliant on international recruitment" and said its workforce plan will be published in the spring.

The consultation on proposals to reform ILR is set to close in a fortnight.

# 'Extremism's fallen through Whitehall gap. Nobody's really dealing with it effectively'



Southport killer Axel Rudakubana was jailed for 2024 murders

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

A TERRORISM expert has warned that government anti-extremism schemes are unable to spot dangerous figures such as Southport killer Axel Rudakubana.

Dame Sara Khan, former commissioner for the Home Office's Commission for Countering Extremism, said programmes like Prevent can miss some groups.

She said thousands of people "could be displaying and holding serious extremist views" but are not spotted by the authorities.

Rudakubana was jailed for a minimum of 52 years for the 2024 murders of three young girls at a dance workshop in Southport.

Dame Sara, who served as commissioner from 2018 to 2021, said existing schemes designed to identify extremists before they carry out atrocities are focused on preventing terrorism. It means they miss people who pose a danger to the public but do not meet the definition of a terrorist, the expert claimed.

## Flagship

She added: "The reality is that extremism seems to have fallen through the Whitehall gap. Nobody is really dealing with it effectively.

"At the moment, you are just missing groups of people, whether it is people we missed like Axel Rudakubana, because he didn't show any coherent ideology, or individuals who fall below the terrorism threshold, and who therefore don't meet the current criteria."

Prevent is the government's flagship anti-extremism strategy, allowing teachers, family members and others to report people they believe could become involved in terrorism. If no crime has been committed then a body known as a Channel Panel, involving police, the local council and social services, will consider whether to offer support, such as mentoring.

Around 8,788 referrals were made to Prevent in one year, but only 1,472 were adopted by Channel.

Figures for the number dealt with by police have not been published.

Dame Sara told a House of Commons inquiry: "The reality is that the rest of those people, thousands of people, could be displaying and holding serious extremist views.

"That has been my concern for a long time.

"We are not following these people into whether they are engaging in other extremist activity, whether that is engaging in forms of extremism-related hate crime, violence or riots on our streets, or other forms of extremist activity. We are not looking at the link."

Last year, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, which represents leaders of children's services across the country, issued a warning to MPs. It said schools and social workers were concerned about the growing number of children interested in "far-right ideologies as well as mixed or unclear belief systems and a general fascination with violent acts, such as school shootings".

Dame Sara Khan voiced concerns

# TV star Sharon's threat to run against terrorist in local election as fury erupts

BY **JAN DISLEY**

**A CONVICTED terrorist has sparked widespread fury by running to be a Birmingham city councillor – with TV star Sharon Osbourne threatening to stand against him.**

**The widow of Brummie music legend Ozzy Osbourne said she was "serious" about opposing Shahid Butt, who was jailed in 1999 for planning attacks on Western targets including the British consulate in Yemen. He insisted he was tortured into making a false confession.**

**Sharon, 73, posted on social media yesterday: "This has nothing to do with racism.**

**"I'm gonna move to Birmingham and put my name down for the ballot to be on the council. I'm serious."**

**Mr Butt, 60, has said he regretted mistakes he made as a young man but believed he was now "above the standard" needed for public life.**

**However, the independent candidate for the Sparkhill ward in May's local elections said in a YouTube interview last year that Muslims should not "take Jews and Christians as friends".**

**He returned to the UK in 2003 and has spent 20 years trying to guide youngsters away from radicalisation – working on the Home Office Prevent scheme and sitting on the West Midlands anti-terrorism steering committee. But in another YouTube interview in 2024, Mr Butt describes fighting jihad in a foreign land as an act of "compassion". He later said he was "making a point".**

**Yet, more recently, Mr Butt – who was also jailed for street fighting with the far right in Birmingham in the 1990s – was recently accused of encouraging violence during protests against Maccabi Tel Aviv when they played Aston Villa last November.**

**In footage from one protest, he tells the crowd: "Muslims are not pacifists. If somebody comes into your face, you knock his teeth out."**

**Safeguarding minister Jess Phillips, who represents Birmingham Yardley, blasted Mr Butt's candidacy, saying: "The idea that people who have been convicted of terror offences, underplaying that as having a colourful past, and standing to represent parts of my family in that area, I find absolutely appalling."**

**Lord Walney, the government's ex-political extremism adviser, said: 'It beggars belief." And Former Prevent manager Ghaffar Hussain added: "We don't want people to express such bigoted views."**

*Shahid Butt is standing in Birmingham*

# Esther calls for baby killer Letby's case to be reviewed

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

DAME Esther Rantzen has added her voice to calls for baby killer Lucy Letby's convictions to be urgently re-examined.

The former nurse, 36, was convicted of murdering seven babies and attempting to kill seven more. She is serving 15 whole-life jail terms.

However, a growing number of public figures have raised doubts about the safety of her convictions and are calling for a fresh review of the evidence.

Dame Esther, 85, said she was prompted to think about the case while watching hit BBC series The Traitors. This year's contestants included a former detective who proved to be no better at identifying the lying Traitors than anyone else.

The veteran broadcaster wrote in a national newspaper that the show demonstrated how "fragments of evidence can be lost and overwhelmed by gut feelings and herd instinct".

Dame Esther said: "Killing children is a terrible accusation, whoever is being accused. And accusers can be passionately attached to their theories, even when others calmly and authoritatively disagree.

"Police officers, even with all their training, as The Traitors showed, can be wrong."

The former presenter also highlighted another case in which the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus in Glasgow refused to accept evidence that contaminated water and ventilation systems could be to blame for infections.

Dozens of children became more unwell and some died with infections while being treated at the hospital after it opened in 2015.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde finally apologised to families and accepted last week that the hospital water system had probably caused some infections.

The same bug found in Scotland was present in the breathing tube of one of the infants that Letby was found guilty of murdering at the Countess of Chester Hospital, Dame Esther said.

She also argued that much of the evidence presented at Letby's trial has been contested by a panel of 14 experts who believe the deaths were more likely to be due to natural causes or errors in medical care.

Lucy Letby is now serving 15 whole-life jail terms. Inset, Dame Esther Rantzen

Notes written by Letby – in which she described herself as "evil" and wrote phrases such as "I killed them" – could merely be false confessions under pressure, Dame Esther suggested.

'Police officers, as The Traitors showed, can be wrong'

She added: "I am convinced that Letby's case should be urgently re-examined.

"I know that the bereaved parents are still mourning the loss of their babies and dread having to relive those tragedies if a retrial is agreed.

"But I believe it would be tragedy upon tragedy if the loss of their babies resulted in the life imprisonment of a nurse whose own life has been shattered beyond repair and who deserves justice. Throughout my career, I have tried to uncover the truth and I know how complicated and difficult that can be. It may be that Letby is a serial killer, but it may be that she is not."

Others calling for the case to be examined include ex-health secretary Sir Jeremy Hunt and ex-Brexit secretary Sir David Davis.

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*Jessie Buckley at the London Film Critics' Circle Awards. Right, Timothee Chalamet and Cynthia Erivo*

# Jessie cream of critics' crop

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

**JESSIE Buckley's glittering run of success continued last night as she scooped another actress of the year honour for Hamnet.**

**The Irish star, 36, sparkled in a floor-length sequinned cream gown as she took the top prize at the 2026 London Film Critics' Circle Awards.**

**Wicked's Cynthia Erivo, 39, who received an innovation nod at the May Fair Hotel event, showed off her striking nail extensions as she posed in a ruched brown dress. Making a surprise appearance, Oscar favourite Timothee Chalamet, 30, won the best actor award for Marty Supreme, while One Battle After Another dominated other categories with four prizes.**

# Four Brits die after stomach bugs on Cape Verde holidays

BY **ELLIE CRABBE**

FOUR British people died within four months after being struck down with stomach bugs while on holiday in Cape Verde.

Elena Walsh, 64, Mark Ashley, 55, Karen Pooley, 64, and a 56-year-old man died last year after contracting severe gastric illnesses while on the islands off the coast of west Africa.

A total of six Britons have died after suffering similar symptoms since 2023.

Law firm Irwin Mitchell said investigations into the deaths are "ongoing".

Mr Ashley's wife Emma, 55, said: "We went to Cape Verde expecting a relaxing break, but Mark became ill and never recovered."

Three days into their holiday in October, Mr Ashley, a self-employed forklift truck driver, had stomach pain, diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and extreme lethargy.

## Heartbroken

Emma, an early years assistant manager, said they booked their trip for more than £3,000 with Tui, and reported her husband's illness on its app on October 9, 2025.

The pair, who had been married for 26 years, stayed at the five-star Riu Palace Santa Maria resort in Sal.

On their return to the UK, father-of-two Mr Ashley's symptoms continued. After collapsing at home in Houghton Regis, Beds, he was taken to hospital on November 12 and died.

Ms Pooley, from Lydney, Glos, travelled with a friend to the Riu Funana resort in Sal on October 7, 2025. The retired mother-of-two died in hospital 10 days later.

Her husband Andy, 62, said: "We're utterly heartbroken. Karen was the kindest, loveliest person. She was a devoted wife and mum and also a wonderful friend who lit up every room she entered."

Part-time nurse and mother-of-one Ms Walsh, from Birmingham, died in August 2025 after falling ill while staying at the Riu Cabo Verde resort on the same island.

Jane Pressley, 62, of Gainsborough, Lincs, and a man in his 60s from Watford, Hertfordshire, have also died after visiting Cape Verde since 2023. Families of all six people are making personal injury claims against Tui.

Jatinder Paul, from Irwin Mitchell, said: "The number of holidaymakers to Cape Verde being struck down with serious and debilitating gastric illnesses is truly staggering.

"Nothing brings the gravity of this situation into sharper focus than these recent deaths.

"In my experience, I'm used to supporting holidaymakers who have fallen ill at resorts across the globe, but I've never seen repeated and continued illness outbreaks.

"Each case isn't a statistic; it's a human story of how lives have been turned upside down.

"Tour operators are responsible for ensuring the safety of those who have booked all-inclusive package holidays. Therefore, we urge them to work with the authorities to ensure the highest hygiene standards are upheld."

Tui was contacted for comment.

Clockwise from top left, Mark Ashley, Elena Walsh, Karen Pooley and Jane Pressley all died after falling ill

DAILY EXPRESS

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## Duplicitous PM hellbent on betraying our Brexit

IT should come as a surprise to no one that Sir Keir Starmer is hellbent on delivering a Brexit sellout.

The duplicity of this Government during its first 19 months has known no bounds.

That, allied to our pitiful Prime Minister's immoveable belief in the European Union and its one-eyed vision of ever closer political union, says everything needed about the future of this country under Labour.

Sir Keir, who voted for, campaigned for and backed remaining in the EU, has effectively said 17.4 million people were conned into voting to leave because the premise was based on falsehoods.

And there's more: he said Nigel Farage, the man likely to replace him in No 10, peddled a pack of lies about prosperity as a way to get people to vote the way they did.

His tactic is obvious. With Labour tanking in the polls and his job hanging by a thread, Sir Keir's only hope is to reignite old wounds in a desperate bid to woo voters to a party haemorrhaging support.

The route from the independence sought by 17.4 million people who voted to unshackle Britain from the straitjacket of the EU is being malevolently realigned so it heads straight into the arms of Labour's brethren in Brussels.

Britain voted to cut and run from the closed-shop bloc but to truly seize the benefits of Brexit we need a leader with clarity and vision, not a flip-flopper who has always sneered at those who he believes voted the wrong way. Sir Keir and Labour want to take Britain back to the 1970s but they should think twice before betraying us all because the man who delivered Brexit is waiting in the wings.

## Bethany's vital message

AN example of Labour's lunacy is that women have to take legal action in the hope of getting the law applied because this government refuses to accept it.

Bethany Hutchison was one such woman. And boy does she have a story to tell.

The nurse, abandoned by her union and sneered at by an NHS petrified of offending a man insisting he is a woman, was forced to embark on an exhausting legal battle simply to defend the right to undress at work.

Today, the 36-year-old mother of two from Washington in Tyne and Wear arrives in Washington DC to tell an influential US conference of the scarcely believable reality of radical gender ideology in Britain where biological fact is still disputed.

Her message? Don't wait until your institutions are radicalised before you start fighting back. Bethany deserves international recognition for doing something our pathetic government and derisory public sector fails to do – speak common sense.

## Landlord's on the money

LET'S raise a glass to Alan Davies who runs two pubs in Herefordshire offering customers a discount for cold hard cash.

Increasing numbers of businesses see currency as an inconvenience and plastic as preferable but the fightback in recognising the importance of pounds and pence is starting.

Luckily for the punters drinking in The Trumpet Inn, Ledbury, and The Moon at Mordiford, cash will always be welcome.

# Kemi must yield to Reform if Right is to win by-election

BRITAIN NEEDS REFORM
GORTON & DENTON NEEDS REFORM

**Reform UK candidate Matt Goodwin could deliver Gorton and Denton for the Right**

## Duncan Barkes

Guest columnist

IF THE Conservative Party wants to do the country a favour, it should sit out the looming by-election in Gorton and Denton. As the political scrap for this Greater Manchester seat hots up, the stakes are high for Labour, Reform UK and the Greens. But not for Tory leader Kemi Badenoch, who should be benevolent and give Reform a clear run to victory to stop those parties whose policies are damaging to the UK.

In any other world, Labour would storm this by-election, but our current political landscape is volatile and unpredictable. Plus, as history has shown us over the decades, voters can behave strangely in by-elections, often using them to vote tactically, to send a disgruntled message to the governing party or to give another party a bit of a boost.

Take veteran Westminster disruptor George Galloway, for example. Over the decades he has scored political hits in by-elections in Rochdale and Bradford West only to lose those same seats at the next general election. George will no doubt find it hard to resist throwing his hat into the ring for this latest bunfight.

This by-election is Sir Keir Starmer's worst nightmare. He has already suffered further political damage in his party by blocking Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, from standing for Labour.

WHILE Mr Burnham's approach and his attempts at re-entering Westminster as an MP have been presumptuous and borderline petulant, there is no question he would have been the best candidate Labour could have fielded given his profile and track record in the region.

Instead, local people will now use the by-election as an opportunity to pass judgment on a chaotic and damaging Labour government that seems hellbent on doing everything possible to change Britain for the worse. With an assured Labour victory currently out of reach, the Green Party could well benefit from Labour's woes, which is a terrifying prospect.

Under the leadership of Zack Polanski, the Greens have increased their profile recently, with many who regard the PM as the "wrong kind of socialist" viewing Mr Polanski as a proper Left-wing alternative to Labour.

The Green's offering – socialism on steroids, a net-zero obsession, an attitude towards national security that would see Britain ripe for the plucking by a hostile nation, and a relaxed approach to sectarian politics – is strangely appealing to a growing number of voters.

A by-election victory would give the Greens a fifth MP and strengthen their belief that there is genuine support for their positions and policies.

Anyone with a brain can see that the party would happily risk this country's financial and national security, but as we know, voters often take leave of their senses in by-elections.

Which is exactly why the Conservatives should give this one a swerve to ensure Reform has the best chance of defeating the Greens and Labour with their candidate Matt Goodwin.

It might be a bitter pill for some Tories to swallow, but to stop the growth of the Greens and to deliver a decent blow to Starmer and co, the outcome of this by-election must be a victory for Nigel Farage's party for the sake of anyone who places themselves on the Right of the political spectrum.

There is no need for an official political pact or a statement of public agreement, but simply a tactical acknowledgment by Ms Badenoch that the Tories cannot win this race and that the few thousand votes they might get would be better off going to Reform to give them the edge over the others. There will be Conservative Party members who will baulk at this suggestion and say that such an approach would deny the voters of Gorton and Denton the right to political choice, and I have sympathy with that view.

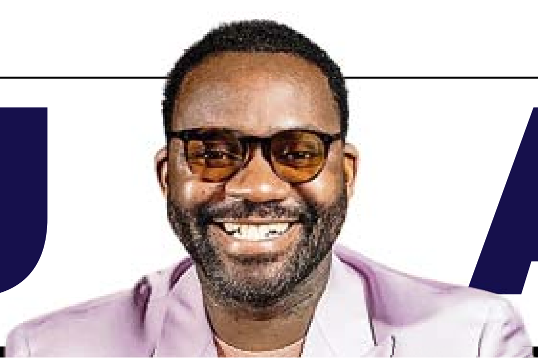
### 'The few votes the Tories might win would be better off going to Reform'

THE halfway house solution would be to simply field a paper candidate and do zero campaigning. Voters would still have the Tory option on the ballot paper, but the party would not have wasted valuable resources on a campaign that it cannot win.

I share the view of high-profile Tories such as Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg and Express columnist and MP Esther McVey, that an agreement will need to be reached with Reform ahead of a general election – somehow supporting each other to stop a Labour PM returning to No 10 with a majority or via some horrific Labour/Lib Dem/Green coalition.

The by-election on February 26 is an opportunity for the Conservatives to be pragmatic about the support for Reform and the hard-Left threat – and they must do so for the sake of our country.

# JJ Anisiobi



THIS IS HOW I SEE IT

## Mayor's Burnham bridges with plot

**I GENUINELY don't understand how Andy Burnham can continue as Mayor of Greater Manchester after openly eyeing up Keir Starmer's job.**

**When Burnham stood for mayor, he made a pledge to Mancunians to lead their city, not treat it as a convenient stepping stone to something shinier in Westminster.**

**You cannot claim to be wholly focused on Greater Manchester while plotting a leadership bid behind the scenes.**

**The people who voted for him did so in good faith, expecting commitment, not ambition masquerading as public service.**

**Manchester deserves a mayor who is in it for the long haul, not one constantly checking the departure board for the next political opportunity.**

**For me, this episode confirms what many already suspected – Burnham is a career politician first and a mayor second.**

*President with painting of late Queen*

## Royal gesture that Trumps his critics

**DONALD Trump has honoured the late Queen Elizabeth II in a way that is both understated and deeply symbolic.**

**At his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, the president has installed a portrait of our much-missed monarch as the only image on display in the grand dining room. Nothing else. Just the late Queen.**

**This is the room where Trump hosts world leaders, which makes the gesture all the more poignant. He admired her greatly, and that respect has clearly endured beyond her death.**

**Love him or loathe him, this is a classy, thoughtful tribute to a monarch he genuinely revered.**

# Unfashionable truth of far-Left feminism

THERE is a particular kind of moral blindness that only seems to afflict the modern Western Left. It allows you to rage, chant and block roads for causes that are fashionable, while remaining eerily silent when women are crushed under the boot of genuine tyranny. Nowhere is that silence louder than when it comes to Afghanistan.

Let me remind you what is happening there. Under the Taliban, women are erased from public life. Girls are permanently banned from education beyond primary school and universities are closed to them. This isn't cultural nuance or complex geopolitics. It's state-enforced ignorance, imposed on half the population, and the consequences are not abstract. They are lethal.

In Afghanistan, male doctors are not permitted to treat female patients except in life-threatening emergencies. But how do you get female doctors, nurses or midwives if girls are banned from education? You don't.

The result is that something as routine as a urinary tract infection can spiral into sepsis, and pregnancy becomes a game of Russian roulette. Women will die quietly, behind closed doors, because ideology has replaced medicine.

This is what real misogyny looks like. This is what real oppression sounds like.

And yet, where is the outrage? Where are the marches? Where are the placards? Where are the blue-haired feminists who can organise a protest at 48 hours' notice if a gender-critical speaker books a town hall? Where are the Hollywood virtue-signalling clowns, tripping over themselves to add another badge to their designer blazers? Where is Greta demanding emergency UN resolutions and a global response?

Apparently, Afghan women don't make the cut. Instead, we get endless protests in Britain about ICE, border enforcement, or the latest imported grievance. We see activists who claim to speak for women loudly demanding men be given access to women's spaces, while showing not a shred of compassion for women literally being denied education, healthcare and freedom.

It would be laughable if it weren't so grotesque. Women in Afghanistan are the most persecuted group there, bar none. Yet our government continues to welcome male asylum seekers from Afghanistan, while Afghan women remain trapped, voiceless and forgotten. If feminism means anything, it should mean standing with those women first. But modern, far-Left feminism isn't about women, it's about performance.

That is the sickness at the heart of it. This ideology doesn't respond to reality; it curates outrage. It picks safe causes, fashionable enemies and protests that cost nothing.

Standing up to the Taliban is dangerous, inconvenient and unfashionable. So they don't bother. Afghan women pay the price for that cowardice and I hope history will not be kind to those who looked away.

JJ and his fellow MND warriors, Jeremy Vine and Debbie Whitehouse

**I DON'T usually get excited about logos, and most rebrands are either pointless, pretentious, or both. But the Motor Neurone Disease Association's new logo? I flipping love it.**

**And that's not just because I'm an ambassador for the charity, it's because this one actually means something. It's rooted in real lives.**

**The cleverest, and most moving detail is in the letter D. It's six fingerprints, representing the six people diagnosed with MND every day. Sit with that for a moment. Six lives changed. Daily.**

**More than 5,500 people helped shape this rebrand – those living with MND, their families, supporters, volunteers and staff. They were asked what the association means to them, how they engage with it and what they expect in the future. That matters.**

**The logo was unveiled last week by Princess Anne, who delivered a superbly emotional speech about the work of the MNDA and the hope it brings. I was proud to be there with my friend and MND warrior Debbie Whitehouse, alongside patron Jeremy Vine. Debbie is a woman who lives this fight, not just talks about it.**

**So why change now? The MNDA has launched a bold five-year strategy: to find tomorrow's treatments, influence better care, and ensure everyone affected by MND gets the support they need, when they need it. We may not have a cure today, but we are only ever one discovery away.**

## SADIQ HAS SURRENDERED OUR STREETS TO THE CRIMINALS...IT'S TIME TO FIGHT BACK

*I'M not in the habit of playing the hero, but last week London forced my hand – twice.*

*First up, I caught a couple of men trying to nick my bike. Not exactly Moriarty-level criminal masterminds. My mate and I challenged them, wrestled one to the ground and called the police. He was wanted for several other offences. A career criminal, roaming freely, until he wasn't. Five days later on the Underground, I spotted a man attempting to pickpocket a young lad. This time I dragged him off the train and called the police.*

*I tell these stories because they expose the grim reality of London under Sadiq Khan: crime is out of control. Criminals operate with impunity because they know most people won't intervene – and even if they're caught, very little happens next.*

*That has to change. For those who are able, I implore you to stand up for yourself and act within the law. If decent people retreat, the streets belong to criminals. And I, for one, refuse to surrender them.*

DAILY EXPRESSO SEE HOST JJ ANISIOBI AND GUESTS IN NEW EPISODES MONDAY TO FRIDAY ON THE EXPRESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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# DEFENDING THE NATION

ONE of the greatest things about speaking with veterans is their ability to tell it as it is, to call a spade a spade unperturbed by modern day acceptability of their language, *writes Conor Wilson.*

I speak to veterans all the time, it's one of the best parts of my job. I don't know if it is simply life experience that comes with getting older or the fact that many experienced things that few others do, allowing them a unique perspective on the world that the remainder would do well to listen to.

This week, for a piece I have been writing about conscription, I spoke to around a dozen veterans of conflicts from the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan and was shocked at how, unprompted, each and every one of them referenced one thing – Keir Starmer's treachery towards Northern Ireland veterans. There are few things more egregious than betraying those who risked it all in defence of their nation. We rightly saw the outpouring of anger and disgust at the comments of President Trump a week ago but amongst veterans of the UK, similar, if not stronger, fury is bubbling towards the PM.

His repeal of the Northern Ireland Legacy Act, designed to protect veterans from spurious prosecutions, has had a real impact on those who served in a way that is clearly underestimated in Westminster.

## Conflict

It's viewed as a kick in the teeth. Lawyers and politicians might hide behind human rights as an excuse for betraying veterans, but it does not wash and they see right through it.

They see a country ready to call in soldiers every time something goes wrong, from water shortages to international conflict, but unprepared to back them on their return.

Given Starmer's pursuit of Iraq veterans during his legal career, it's perhaps not a surprise removing protections might just be the only manifesto promise Labour keeps. But it should anger anybody with an ounce of gratitude. I was happy to see Reform UK is promising to back veterans. But a word of warning for Mr Farage. Your failure to vote against the government's amendment speaks volumes. Veterans will see through any attempt to use them as a political football.

Treat them properly and ensure your actions match your rhetoric.

- *To sign up to our Defending The Nation newsletter, use the QR code here or visit express.co.uk/defendingthenation*

**Captain Philip Muldowney died during live-fire training**

*WE should all pay tribute to Captain Philip Gilbert Muldowney, the Royal Artillery officer who was tragically shot dead last week in a live-fire training incident.*

*At a time when the British Army is not deployed in a war-fighting capacity, it's all too easy to lose sight of the risks soldiers face to ensure their readiness to deploy should they be called upon.*

*Live Fire Tactical Training happens regularly at ranges across the country and is an important part of training.*

*Troops move around an area as they would on operations while engaging targets with live ammunition, posing significantly more risk than a static range.*

*Planning is rigorous and thorough to ensure it is as safe as it can be and it's devastating for the entire military community when it goes wrong.*

*Incidents like this serve as a reminder of the sacrifice given every day by the men and women of our armed forces.*

*Rest easy, Gilbert.*

**DONALD Trump's "beautiful armada" has set sail for Iran as the US leader warns Tehran to "make a deal". As with any threat from Trump, it is hard to know exactly what will happen.**

**But a word of warning before any potential strike is met with self-righteous, peace-loving, middle class, privileged whining: Iran is responsible for attacks on UK interests and citizens, it tortures and murders women who refuse to wear the hijab and may have killed as many as 30,000 protesters during recent anti-regime demonstrations.**

**So to anybody in their right mind, military action against a nuclear-pursuing Iran is long overdue. For all Trump's absurdity, his willingness to project strength overseas, even if motivated by money and oil, could be his greatest gift to the world.**

By Conor Wilson and James Knuckey

# Flood threat and icy roads after storm

BY **ROD MINCHIN**

FLOOD warnings are in place across parts of the UK after heavy rain throughout January.

A total of 58 are in force in England, mostly in the South West, along with three in Scotland and two in Wales.

In addition, there are 118 less urgent flood alerts across the country, the Met Office says.

Motorists woke up to ice patches on untreated roads following an overnight yellow ice alert in the South West of England and parts of Hampshire, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Met Office said: "With wet surfaces following recent rain and temperatures falling close to or below freezing, icy patches will be possible on untreated surfaces."

Earlier this week, a major incident was declared in Somerset when about 50 properties were hit by flooding caused by Storm Chandra. On the Somerset Levels, ultra high-volume pumps continue to be used to remove flood water.

# Half of DIY fans use AI to fix issues

BY **VICKY SHAW**

HALF of people turn to AI for help with DIY issues such as hanging a frame or changing a bulb, research claims.

Millennials, born from the early 1980s to the late 1990s, and Gen-Zs, born between 1997 and 2012, are particularly likely to do so.

Three-quarters of 18 to 28-year-olds had used artificial intelligence, as had 74% of those aged 29 to 44 – but less than a fifth (19%) of those aged 61 to 79 had, the survey for insurer Aviva found.

Unclogging drains and building furniture were among the jobs. Trickier tasks included fixing a broken tap and installing a washing machine.

Some 83% of more than 2,000 people asked by Censuswide said they would use AI again for future DIY tasks – but 13% admitted they had spent between £250 and £499 to fix botched jobs.

Aviva warned some projects "especially those involving gas or electrical work, should only be undertaken by a registered and trained professional".

One raider smashes the window before peeling back the panel while the other fills his bag with valuables
GREGORY & Co
JEWELLERS
GREGORY & Co

# Daylight robbery!

## Shocking smash and grab jewellery shop raid in smart suburb

BY **JAMES KNUCKEY**

MEMBERS of the public watched in horror as two burglars looted a jewellery store in a daylight raid.

One worker inside the family-run jewellers bravely attempted to fend off the raiders who had their faces covered during the brazen burglary.

Footage of the shocking incident was shared widely on social media, showing two men taking a large hammer to the front window of Gregory and Co in upmarket Richmond, south-west London, at around 10.30am on Saturday.

After damaging the window, one of the men started to pull back the glass panel while the second began ransacking the window display, shovelling valuables into a large blue bag.

### Sledgehammer

In the footage, one of the jewellers can be seen trying to bat the men away with a box, while another can be seen filming the ordeal before quickly moving more items out of the grasp of the thieves.

The men, wearing dark clothing, can then be seen running off.

Shocked members of the public can be heard gasping in the video, filmed from inside another store, as the burglary unfolded.

One worried person can be heard saying "call the police", while another, concerned the burglars could head in their direction, said "shut the door".

An employee of a nearby store who witnessed the incident, said: "The two guys appeared out of nowhere carrying a large sledgehammer and a bag.

"They then started smashing the jewellers' window up." Yesterday, the Metropolitan Police confirmed the incident was being treated as an aggravated burglary and urged anyone with information to come forward.

The force said: "Officers responded to an aggravated burglary in Paved Court, Richmond. No injuries were reported. We are working to identify and arrest those responsible." Gregory and Co Jewellers were contacted for comment.

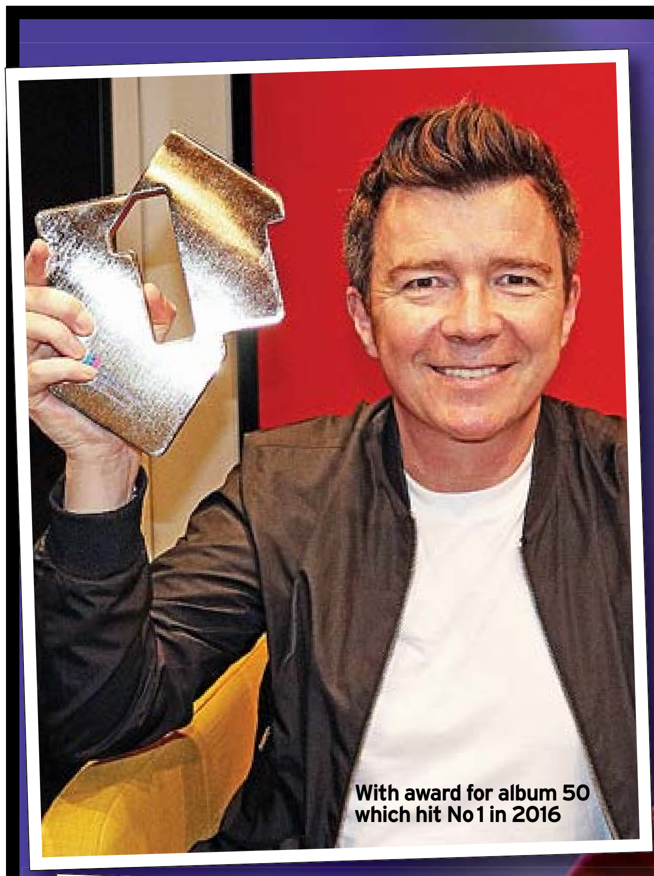
Similar attacks on jewellery shops have been reported across London.

Police are looking for a number of suspects who fled the scene of a raid in Shepherd's Bush, west London, in the early hours of last Thursday. A 33-year-old man was arrested at the scene after officers were called to a jewellers in Uxbridge Road.

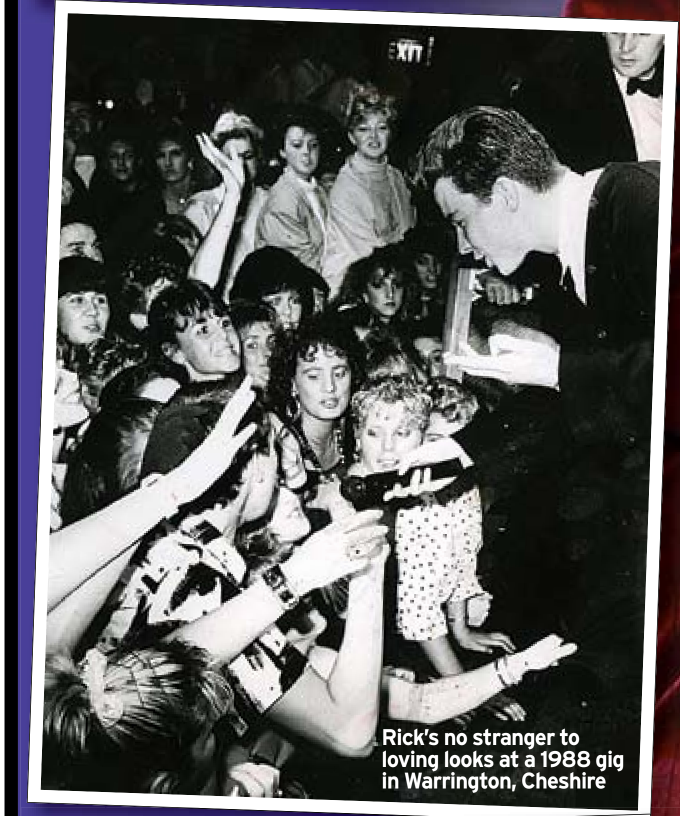
He was charged with burglary and criminal damage and remanded into custody until he appears before Westminster magistrates this Friday.

The robbers grab as much jewellery as they can before making off down the smart shopping street in Richmond, south-west London

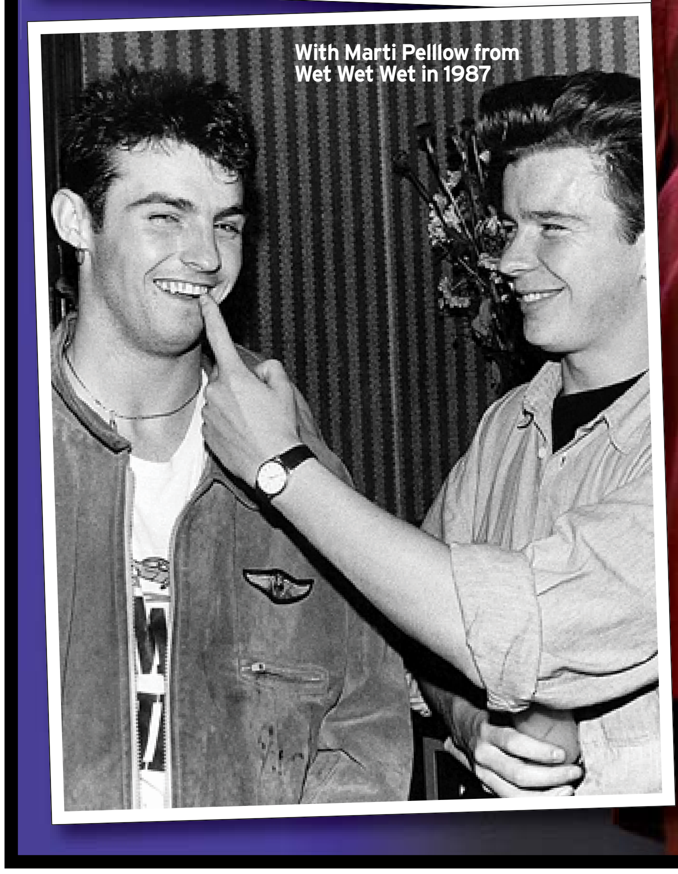
# Never



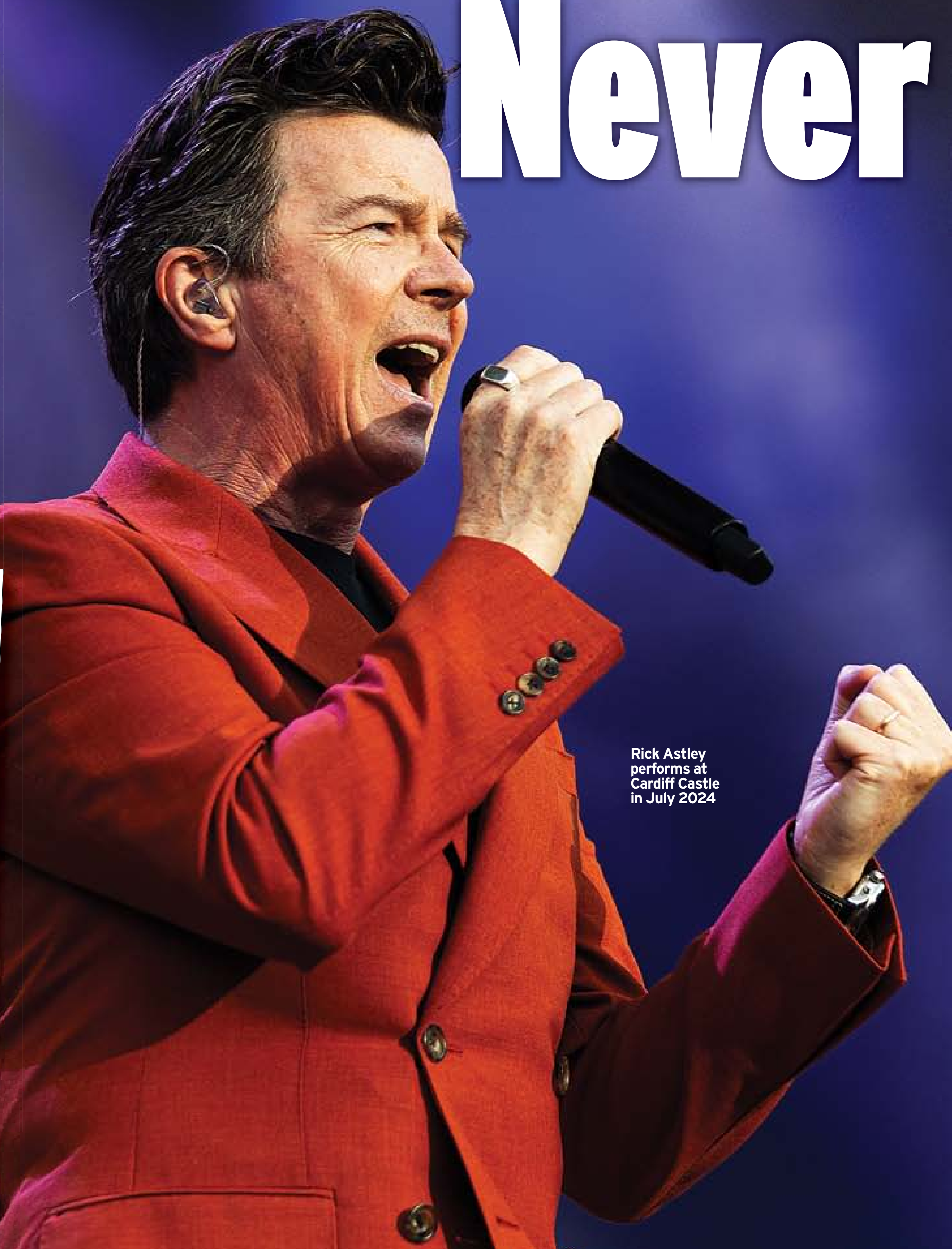
With award for album 50 which hit No1 in 2016



Rick's no stranger to loving looks at a 1988 gig in Warrington, Cheshire



With Marti Pelllow from Wet Wet Wet in 1987



Rick Astley performs at Cardiff Castle in July 2024

Chatting with Dermot O'Leary on Reel Stories

# gonna give up...

# EVEN AT 60

## 80s pop icon Rick Astley on 'bonkers Rickrolling' back to fame

**By Jackie Annett**

SINGER and 80s heartthrob Rick Astley was enjoying a family holiday and early retirement in Italy when his infectious smash debut single went from catchy to viral. A pal sent him a meme that fooled people into hearing Rick singing Never Gonna Give You Up, his 1987 worldwide hit that topped the UK charts for five weeks.

The 2007 internet trick became known as Rickrolling and became a sensation after a YouTube April Fool redirected every featured video on its home page to his song.

Rickrolling changed everything for the star, who has had eight top 10 UK hits, but admits he had "lost his bottle".

He says: "It was kind of a new sexy thing. The Rickrolling thing was just completely bonkers – and then it just made me come out of my shell."

With Kylie in Hyde Park in 2018

After that, there was no stopping Rick, who is 60 on Friday and chats to Dermot O'Leary on BBC's Reel Stories on Saturday.

Things got even better and in 2023 he performed at Glastonbury. He no longer stresses about what people think: "I'm too old to give a sh** any more!"

Some had seen Rick as just another instantly disposable product of the 80s Stock Aitken Waterman hit factory but his success has put many critics in their place.

The youngest of four kids, Rick grew up in Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, where his dad had a garden centre.

He would play drums to AC/DC's Highway to Hell in an industrial-sized greenhouse and was influenced by his older siblings' musical tastes.

"Even though I wanted to have the Jungle Book album on, I was listening to Genesis and Marvin Gaye."

Record producer Pete Waterman spotted Rick fronting a group called FBI at a battle of the bands competition.

Rick was just 21 when Never Gonna Give You Up was released. It would eventually top the charts in 25 countries and win the 1988 Brit for best British single.

He says: "It was just amazing. It ended up being the biggest record of the year. It was number one in America. It was one of those records that got people going."

Rick was catapulted into global stardom and rubbed shoulders with the likes of fellow blue-eyed soul star Marti Pellow, singer with Wet Wet Wet.

His first album, Whenever You Need Somebody (1987), went to number one here and in Australia. His second, Hold Me in Your Arms (1988), peaked at number eight here and was certified platinum and gold in many countries.

But in 1991 he left SAW to pursue his love of soul, having a number seven hit with Cry for Help (1991) and releasing the album Free the same year, which peaked at number nine. He admits after Cry for Help: "I had in the back of my mind 'this may be the only record you ever make'."

Collaborating with Elton John in the early 90s, Rick sang backing vocals for his hit Can You Feel the Love Tonight from The Lion King, while Elton played piano on the track Wonderful You on Free. Yet, in 1993 it looked as if Rick had reached the end of the musical road. He felt boybands such as Take That were dominating everything and says: "I was going to go to America to do TV and my bottle had gone.

"On the way to the airport I just said: 'I'm not going'. And I knew what it meant, I was crying and I just went home.

"Lene, my partner, and I had a baby, our daughter [Emilie] and we bought a big house in the country, and went into a bit of a hibernation to some degree. But the Rickrolling incident in 2007 changed everything.

"I got the bug again just for the joy of singing. I wasn't doing it for the money, for anybody, for fame. Around that time I had an offer to go to Japan and sing my old songs.

"I had an absolute riot doing it. Something changed in me that said 'this can be fun'."

HE did not officially make his comeback until 2016 with the release of his highly praised album 50, which topped the charts.

On its success, Rick says: "Of course it's about some talent and a lot of drive and commitment, but it's also just about that sliding doors moment.

"I thought I'd be releasing it [the album] on my own label out of the back of a van, I didn't think a record label would get hold of it and go 'no, we're going for it'.

"The idea of having, for want of a better phrase, a comeback... it's like I wouldn't have bet my doorstep on it, never mind my house." He had been friends with Kylie Minogue since their SAW days and she asked him to sing with her at the BBC Radio 2 concert in Hyde Park in 2018, with their medley of Never Gonna Give You Up and I Should Be So Lucky. Kylie called the collaboration "just amazing".

In 2023, Rick was first up on Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage on the Saturday. He says Emilie, 31, realised he would be terrified but she reassured him and told him to "just go and enjoy it like you would any gig, like playing in a pub".

He says: "That day was just bonkers. We went up 45 minutes before just to look at it and there was nobody there. I went back to the dressing room and thought 'not only is this going to be the biggest embarrassment, it's on the BBC'." He need not have worried.

Rick performed his own hits, covers of Harry Styles's songs and AC/DC's Highway to Hell. "Being on stage it still made me tingle. I just enjoyed myself."

Later that day, he performed Smiths' covers with the band Blossoms on the festival's Woodsies Stage, which fans described as the moment that "won Glastonbury".

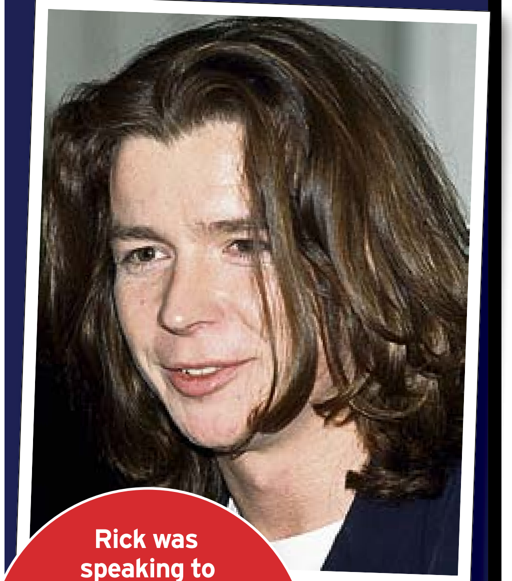
He says: "I met them [Blossoms] when the Manchester Arena reopened and Noel Gallagher was gracious enough to have everyone in his room afterwards.

"I said to them 'my fantasy of the universe thing is just go somewhere and sing Smiths songs'. My brother Mike got me into the Smiths – their songs are like nothing else and no one else."

Rick says of the experience: "The crowd was just insane – it's probably one of the best times I've ever had on a stage."

And he will get the buzz of live performing again when The Reflection Tour, 31 gigs in UK and Ireland, starts in April. He says: "People love an underdog story and I don't have regrets. I'm very grateful and happy to be where I am."

Meanwhile, fans who fear this could be the final comeback from the man who officially retired more than 30 years ago can probably safely assume he's never gonna give you up.



**Rick was speaking to Dermot O'Leary for Reel Stories: Rick Astley, which will be broadcast in February 2026 on BBC Two and BBC iPlayer.**

Rick in 1991, above, and below with partner Lene

# Landlord's liquid assets offer

## Pub gives discounts to cash-paying customers

BY **ADAM DUTTON**

A PUB landlord is offering his customers a discount for paying with cash as he fights back against soaring bank charges.

Alan Davies, 53, said card payments cost him roughly £5 for every £50 spent and the total outlay is enough to hire another member of staff.

So locals at the Trumpet Inn, near Ledbury, Herefordshire, now get 5% off food and drink if they opt for cash. For example, a £6 pint costs £5.70 with cash.

Alan, who also owns The Moon at nearby Mordiford, said: "The banks aren't doing anything for this money. A lot of small businesses are struggling so we've gone back to the old system like when I was young.

"We still take card, but we have the discounts for cash payments.

"Before this we had 95% of our transactions on card, now it's risen to 50% cash. So that shows people still have cash and are using it."

Alan said his scheme had its critics, including some who accused him of doing it for tax purposes, but he insisted: "It all goes through the tills the same."

He added: "You're going to get some negative comments, but at the end of the day I'm not charging anything extra, I'm just charging the correct price for things.

"If you pay £50, £5 of that goes to the bank. I don't understand why we accept it.

### Brilliant

"If I pay my local farmer £10 for potatoes, he uses that elsewhere. Why should banks have that cut?

"We said we would have a few months until February or March trialling this, but for me it's a bit of a no-brainer to keep it."

Dave Holloway, a regular at The Trumpet, said: "Any discount in the current situation is a good idea. It's 30 pence a pint cheaper isn't it? Anything you can save is worth saving. It brings people into the pub."

Staff member Bella Grinnell added: "I think it's a brilliant idea that we're handling cash more.

"We spend so much time on screens every day, to then use another screen to take card payments, it takes you out of reality."

Industry experts warn many pubs are facing closure despite Rachel Reeves's business rates climbdown. She announced pubs and live music venues would receive a 15% discount on the tax from April followed by a two-year freeze. However, landlords say it will do little to cushion the blow due to their soaring costs.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Landlord Alan Davies has incentive for cash payments

### WE WITHDRAW A HOLE LOT LESS

**ADULTS used cash machines an average of 15 times last year, typically taking out £90 - a fiver less than in 2024.**

**Over-16s made 832 million withdrawals, down 9% on the previous 12 months, according to cash access network Link.**

**Most withdrawals are from hole-in-the-wall machines ahead of cashback and counter transactions at banks, Post Offices and banking hubs.**

**Link said people visit ATMs less often but take out more.**

**Northern Ireland is still the UK's most "cash-heavy" region with an average £2,249 taken out over the course of last year; South West England had the least at £974.**

**Link said cash was "resilient and essential to millions".**

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**Fired driver Mark Hehir got back his passenger's stolen necklace in chase**

# 100,000 back bus driver sacked after nabbing thief

BY **JAMES MANNING**

A BUS driver backed by a 100,000-name petition protesting over his sacking for knocking out a thief does not want his job back.

Mark Hehir chased and caught the man who had stolen a passenger's necklace, then hit out in self-defence when the suspect attacked him.

He said the public had shown "incredible" support since a tribunal upheld the decision by Metroline bosses to subsequently fire him.

Mark, 62, added: "I'd be very happy if Metroline made an apology and just admitted that they might have got it wrong.

"I'd like them to compensate me for lost earnings...that's important, that they understand they got it wrong."

Asked if he would accept his job back, he said: "Absolutely not, you cannot work for a company that treats its staff like that."

Mark, who worked in north-west London, went on: "If anything does happen it's always the driver's fault. 'You're on your own, you've created a situation, now you get out of it'... there's no help."

He called driving "an underpaid, tough job" and said he did not consider himself a hero. Mark, who now works in a bar, added: "I've always felt I was justified in my actions and it just seems 99.5% of people agree."

An online petition calling for him to be reinstated or compensated, set up by shadow justice minister Dr Kieran Mullan, has attracted more than 100,000 signatures while a GoFundMe page supporting him has already raised more than £23,000.

Bus bosses called punch 'excessive'

Mark revealed: "I spent six days in hospital, because I got an infection from the guy's tooth. I ended up in ICU, I had two operations...I was very, very close to losing my hand.

"Not one person from the company rang me to ask how I was and I thought that was a disgrace. I did get some help from the union."

Dr Mullan urged Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan to demand "serious consideration of reinstatement or appropriate compensation".

Metroline said: "The tribunal has upheld the dismissal as fair." It claimed Mark's use of force was "excessive" during the June 2024 incident on a 206 bus between Wembley and Maida Vale. But police said his use of force was "proportionate".

# How daytime naps can boost brain health and help us learn

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

AFTERNOON naps are good for the brain and improve our ability to learn, research has revealed.

Taking a short siesta is enough to reorganise connections between nerve cells so that new information can be stored more effectively, according to scientists.

Even a short period of sleep of up to 45 minutes can relieve the brain and put it back into a state of readiness to learn.

Researchers from the University of Freiburg, Germany, and the University of Geneva, Switzerland, said in journal NeuroImage that grabbing 40 winks could be particularly beneficial if you have a high workload.

Study leader Professor Christoph Nissen said: "Our results suggest that even short periods of sleep enhance the brain's capacity to encode new information."

Naps can be beneficial

Traditional Trulli houses, Alberobello city

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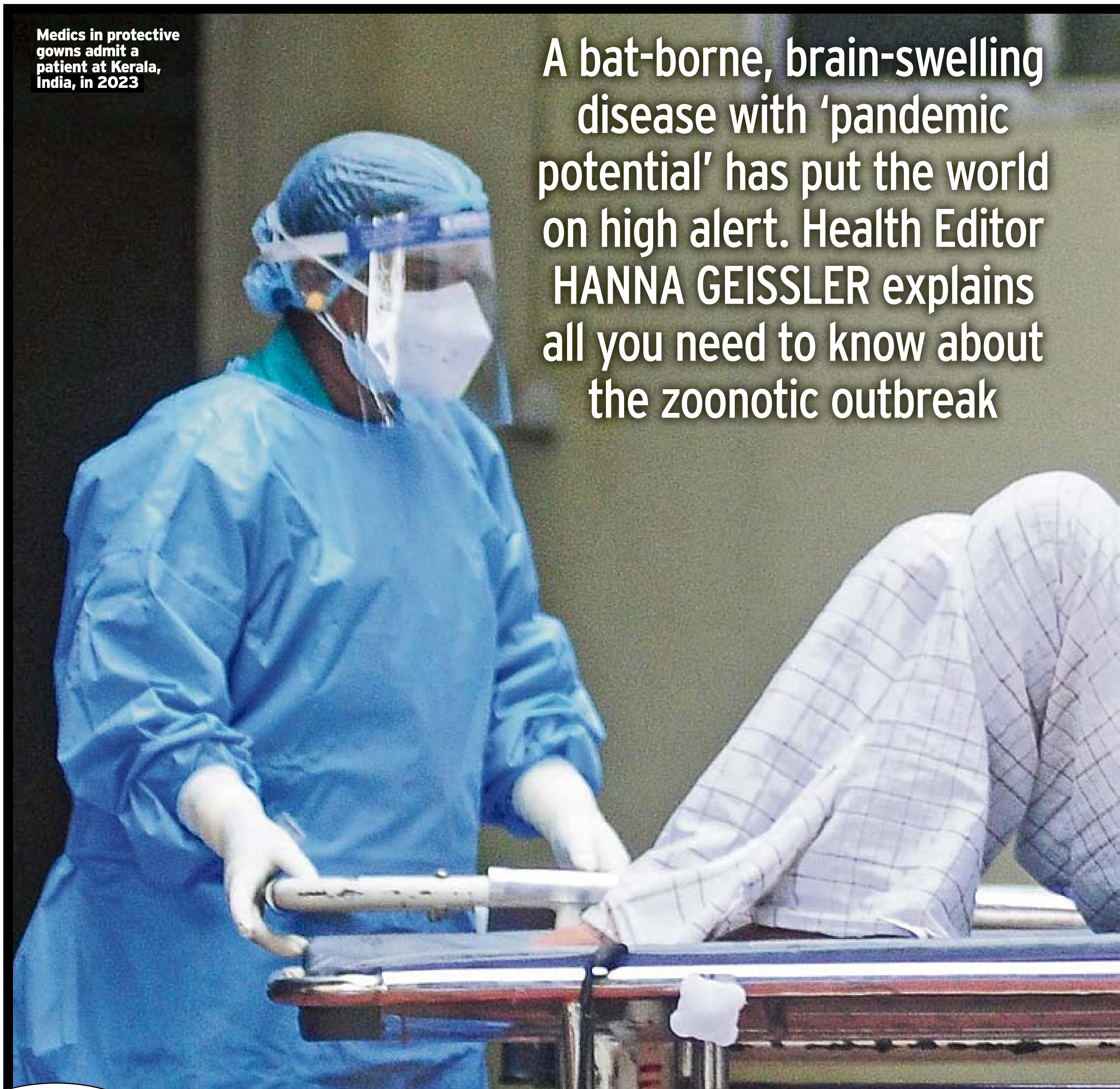
# The race to contain

## A bat-borne, brain-swelling disease with 'pandemic potential' has put the world on high alert. Health Editor HANNA GEISSLER explains all you need to know about the zoonotic outbreak



**Medics in protective gowns admit a patient at Kerala, India, in 2023**

NEWS of an outbreak of a deadly disease with "pandemic potential" will no doubt trigger flashbacks to the dark days of Covid when we were told to stay home and sing Happy Birthday twice while washing our hands. This time, it's the bat-borne Nipah virus, a zoonotic infection – one that can jump from animals to humans – with a death rate of between 40% and 75%, according to the UK Health Security Agency.

Officials in India have been racing to contain the virus after two healthcare workers at a hospital in the eastern state of West Bengal fell ill in late December. One remains in a coma, while the other who experienced "severe neurological illness" has "since improved", according to the World Health Organisation.

Around 200 people who came into contact with the victims have been traced and tested, hospitals have stepped up infection protocols, and some nearby countries have tightened border controls and implemented health screening at major airports.

The WHO has described Nipah as one of its top 10 priority diseases because of its potential to spark an epidemic or pandemic. The UKHSA designated it as a high priority pathogen last March, meaning that new tests, treatments and vaccines are urgently needed. So, how worried should we be? We asked two experts in medicine and virology to tell us everything we need to know about Nipah.

### WHAT IS NIPAH VIRUS?

Nipah virus can be transmitted from animals, including bats and pigs, to humans. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host and carry the virus without falling ill, then spread it through saliva, urine and faeces.

The pathogen was first discovered in 1999, a few months after a mysterious and deadly outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia. Health officials originally thought pig farmers falling ill with brain inflammation were suffering from Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease. But when the deaths continued, scientists isolated the new virus.

Nipah can be transferred through contact with infected animals or their environments, via food, or through close contact with an infected person. Eating contaminated raw date palm syrup has also been implicated.

Subsequent outbreaks have been seen in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Professor Paul Hunter, an expert in medicine at the University of East Anglia, says: "Typically, we get one or two Nipah virus outbreaks each year. There was a significant one in 2023, in West Bengal, as well."

Dr Efstathios Giotis, a lecturer in molecular virology at the University of Essex, says the current cases "seem to be contained", adding: "There is no evidence that there's wider community spread and I haven't read anything particularly worrying. There have been outbreaks of Nipah virus in the region in the past."

**Bats and pigs can carry Nipah virus**

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Dr Giotis describes Nipah as a "serious disease". He said: "It can cause flu-like symptoms or it can invade the central nervous system and cause encephalitis, inflammation of the brain – that's the most serious symptom. That's usually the main cause of death and it can cause long-term disability."

Early symptoms typically include fever, headaches, muscle pain and vomiting, sometimes followed by dizziness and drowsiness. This can progress to pneumonia and severe respiratory problems, seizures and coma.

Encephalitis occurs when the virus breaches the blood-brain barrier, leading to swelling and potentially causing lasting brain damage and neurological problems. This ability is what makes Nipah so lethal and why it is classified as a "neurotropic" virus, meaning one that targets the nervous system.

There are no specific treatments, so patients are given supportive care in hospital while their bodies fight the infection. People can also be infected without showing any symptoms, and the virus can sometimes reactivate months or even years after the initial infection.

### WHY IS THERE NO VACCINE OR TREATMENT FOR NIPAH?

The virus poses a challenge to researchers – it is very deadly, so treatments and vaccines are desperately needed, however, cases are relatively rare.

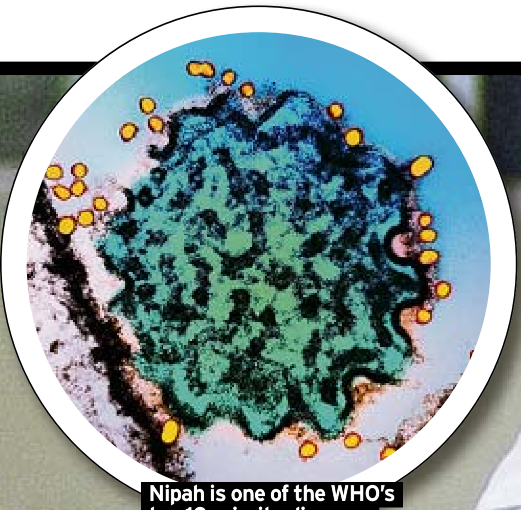
Professor Hunter explains: "The problem is that, because there are so few cases each year, proving a vaccine works in the real world takes a long time. I suspect that's why [we don't have a vaccine yet].

"With viral infections, sometimes antiviral drugs work, sometimes they don't.

"Again, the problem is that, to know whether a treatment has benefit, you need to have enough cases.

"When you have a disease like Nipah virus, where outbreaks are generally small

# deadly Nipah virus



Nipah is one of the WHO's top 10 priority diseases

NIPAH VIRUS AREA
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നിരോധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.
MAVOOR POLICE

Warning signs at 2021 outbreak in Kozhikode, India

and in rural areas, the commercial pressure to develop something quickly isn't as great. You might spend tens of millions bringing a drug to treatment, and then you can only use it three or four times a year in a low-income country."

Dr Giotis adds: "Scientists are interested in it but because the outbreaks are rare and sporadic, that makes clinical trials a bit more difficult."

### HOW DEADLY IS NIPAH?

The death rate can vary between outbreaks, partly depending on local capabilities for identifying and containing cases. The UKHSA estimates that it falls between 40% and 75%, while Prof Hunter estimates it ranges from 50% to 90%. "With a mortality rate like that, it is a substantially scary disease," he adds.

"You've probably got a 50% chance or more of dying, I think that's pretty serious.

"It is a very nasty disease. Fortunately, it's not that infectious person-to-person at the moment."

During the first outbreak among pig farmers, the virus appeared to only spread from animals to people. However, it was found to also spread from human to human during later outbreaks.

### COULD NIPAH VIRUS CAUSE A PANDEMIC?

Nipah inspired the 2011 Hollywood thriller, Contagion, which features a virus called MEV-1 that triggers a global crisis.

The fictional pathogen was transmitted from bats to pigs, and then to Gwyneth Paltrow via a handshake with a chef who did not wash his hands properly after handling raw meat.

There has never been a case of Nipah recorded in the UK and the potential for the current strain to cause a wider outbreak is considered low.

But if it mutates to become more easily transmissible, it could quickly spread around the world.

Prof Hunter says of the current strain: "Its pandemic potential is very low. It's unlikely that it would cause more widespread outbreaks.

"Of course, viruses do have the potential to evolve, so I can't guarantee that Nipah, at some point in the future, won't evolve to be more infectious.

"That hasn't happened so far and, fingers crossed, it won't in my lifetime.

"But we can't just ignore it and say, 'It's not going to spread so we'll just forget about it'."

This is why Nipah has been described by the World Health Organisation and UKHSA as a priority pathogen.

Dr Giotis says the virus does not spread as easily as other viruses such as flu, and doesn't have the same ability to spread near-silently that made Covid so dangerous.

He adds: "We need to see the genetic sequencing of this new strain, but so far we haven't seen any evidence that the virus has changed in a way that makes it more transmissible or more lethal. The risk is quite low from what we've seen so far."

### IS IT SAFE TO GO ON HOLIDAY?

One of the major concerns around the India outbreak is that it coincides with a busy travel period, when people traverse Asia to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Some airports in Thailand have started screening passengers arriving in Bangkok and Phuket from West Bengal, and the country's parks and wildlife department has implemented stricter screenings at tourist attractions.

So what should you do if you have a holiday booked to an affected country? Prof Hunter says "most of the recent outbreaks have been in Bangladesh, West Bengal, Kerala... There have been some elsewhere".

He adds: "The best advice is just be careful what you eat. There is a drink, palm tree sap, and sometimes it is fermented into an alcoholic beverage.

"That has been implicated several times so don't drink juice that has not been pasteurised or heated, and make sure you peel fruit properly before you eat it – which is good advice for lots of things other than Nipah virus.

"Outbreaks occur most years but they generally are quite small. The risk is actually very low, particularly if you're going to touristy areas."

Dr Giotis similarly advises "some caution" but says the risk of infection for travellers is generally low. "Avoid contact with animals – bats, pigs – or sick individuals.

"Practice normal hygiene, hand washing, safe foods, avoid raw fruit juice. And of course seek medical care if you develop a fever after travelling.

"There's no need to panic. Based on what we have heard so far, there's no evidence of community spread so I don't think travellers should panic. The whole situation seems to be low risk, just use common sense."

**'Outbreaks occur most years but they generally are quite small. The risk for travellers is low'**

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## ‘INCURABLE’ LUNG CANCER DISAPPEARS

# ‘I prepared for the worst ...here I am six years on’

EXCLUSIVE

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

A MAN diagnosed six years ago with “incurable” stage 4 lung cancer has seen the disease vanish thanks to an NHS drug.

Duncan Edmonstone, 55, was rushed to hospital in 2020 following a seizure and horrified when doctors revealed he had advanced lung cancer that had spread to his brain.

Emergency surgery at Salford Royal, part of Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, removed the tumour from his head.

But genetic testing revealed he was one of just 5% of non-small cell lung cancer patients with the rare but easier to treat ALK+ mutation.

For reasons scientists are still working out, ALK+ lung cancer is more common in younger to middle-aged people who do not smoke – like Duncan.

After his operation, the former IT worker was referred to Manchester’s specialist cancer centre The Christie NHS Foundation Trust to start targeted drug alectinib – and now he has “no detectable” sign of cancer.

Although Duncan knows he has probably not beaten the disease, while he remains on alectinib he says the extra hope means he is living life to the full every day.

Duncan explained: “I didn’t have traditional symptoms like a cough or chest pain, so the diagnosis came as a real shock. One minute I was fine, the next I was rushed to hospital.

### Thankful

“It took me about three to four months to come to terms with it.

“Before I was diagnosed, I didn’t realise how many different types of lung cancer there are.

“The overall survival stats for stage 4 lung cancer are poor, so I was preparing for the worst, but here I am six years later.

“The drug I’m on comes as tablets which I can take at home.

“I have had minimal side effects which has allowed me to live life as fully as I can.”

Duncan, who has been married to artist and art teacher Kay since 1998, has done a lot of travelling over the past few years.

He added: “Beach holidays are out because my treatment means I’m very sensitive to the sun.

“But Kay and I spent a month in New Zealand a couple of years ago and have since been to Greenland and Iceland. We’re also looking to do an off-season tour of the Med.

“I’ve been on a bit of a wild ride, but I’m so thankful to be alive and making memories.”

Duncan, of Sandbach, Cheshire, added: “My team at The Christie are great and have been supportive of me throughout.”

In addition to seeing the world, Duncan is also involved in advocacy and patient support work. He said: “I volunteer to help people who are in the same situation I was in a few years ago and to give the patient perspective to the brilliant NHS teams that are treating cancer.

“In addition to giving back, it’s also helped me come to terms with what’s happened to me.”

Dr David Woolf, Duncan’s consultant at The Christie, told us: “It’s great to see Duncan is doing so well six years after his original diagnosis and that he’s so involved with helping other patients.

“Most advanced lung cancers, however, are much more difficult to treat, and that’s why early diagnosis is important. If you have had a persistent cough that has lasted for three weeks or more, get out of breath easily or have lost weight without knowing why, you should go and see your GP as soon as possible.

“A full list of symptoms, as well as advice to help you stop smoking is available on the NHS website.”

Duncan Edmonstone with his wife Kay

## EXPLAINING THE RARE AND LITTLE-KNOWN ALK+ LUNG CANCER

Duncan in hospital bed

**AN expert has explained how the rare form of lung cancer that struck down Duncan Edmonstone occurs.**

**Dr Fabio Gomes is a consultant medical oncologist on the lung cancer team at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust centre.**

**He has analysed how ALK+ lung cancer works. Dr Gomes said: “ALK+ lung cancer occurs when a gene called the anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) gene fuses with another gene.**

**“This changes the way the signalling works within the cell, causing the cancer cells to continuously divide and replicate. It happens at random and is not something that can be inherited from your parents.**

**“The ALK+ mutation was only discovered less than 20 years ago. Within six years of its discovery, the first targeted treatment was approved for use on the NHS.**

**“These types of drugs, called tyrosine kinase inhibitors, are the cornerstone of treatment. They work very successfully by blocking the chemical signals telling these cancer cells to grow and divide.**

**“Around 5% of people diagnosed with lung cancer will have an ALK+ mutation. The median age for someone diagnosed with an ALK+ mutation is 50 to 52 years, while the average age at diagnosis of the general lung cancer population is 74. Like Duncan, many patients struggle to come to terms with diagnosis, and awareness among GPs is also lower than it should be.”**

Consultant Dr Fabio Gomes

James has scuba dive dream

# Heart op could help boy, 11, live his dream

BY **MARTIN BAGOT**

THE first boy in Britain to have a pioneering heart operation hopes it will help him fulfill his dream of becoming a marine biologist.

James Hoddinott, 11, was born with a hole in his heart, meaning he could not scuba dive due to the risk of decompression sickness.

Now, thanks to NHS doctors, he has been fitted with a new biodegradable closure device called MemoSorb, which seals the hole immediately.

It then slowly dissolves over about a year, at the same time as the body’s own tissue grows naturally over the repair.

James said: “Before my operation I felt nervous, but mainly excited because it could mean I’m finally able to scuba dive.

### Passion

“That’s my dream. I have a real passion for marine biology.

“I was also excited because no one else in the country has what I have in my heart.”

Heart specialists from Royal Brompton Hospital and Evelina London Children’s Hospital carried out the operation, working closely with the international team who developed the flexible 28mm device.

It was inserted through a vein in the groin and guided to the heart. Once in the correct position, it was gently released.

James, from Woking, Surrey, was back at school just a week after the two-hour operation.

His mum, Suzanne Hoddinott, said: “We feel exceptionally fortunate to have had this opportunity.

“He’s already thinking ahead to when he can test for diving.”

## 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

**JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.**

**For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.**

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

| | | | | | | | | | | YOUR ANSWERS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Beginner** | 17 | x2 | +54 | 4/11 OF THIS | -19 | x2 | +46 | ÷6 | -5 | |
| **Intermediate** | 54 | 7/9 OF THIS | +183 | TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT | x8 | -54 | 8/11 OF THIS | +174 | ÷6 | |
| **Advanced** | 6 | CUBE IT | +187 | 7/13 OF THIS | -64 | ÷9 | +148 | INCREASE BY 80% | -38 | |

## THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

**LOTTERY**

7 8 17 25 37 40 11

**THUNDERBALL**

2 11 14 27 39 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

**EUROMILLIONS** 14 18 31 35 46 7 11

**THUNDERBALL** 24 29 36 38 39 13

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

**SET FOR LIFE** 13 24 31 33 36 3

## THE HEALTH LOTTERY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

5 10 19 35 47 16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

4 20 41 42 43 46

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

## PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Friday:

**Are delays to assisted dying bill harming reputation of the House of Lords?**

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**Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 5 | | 1 | 2 | 8 | |
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| 9 | | 5 | | | 2 | | | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | | 1 | | | | 6 | |
| | | | 2 | 3 | | 1 | | |
| | 3 | | | | 6 | | 2 | 4 |
| | | | 7 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | | 1 | | | 9 | 7 |
| | | 9 | 4 | | 8 | | 1 | |

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**MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT**

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
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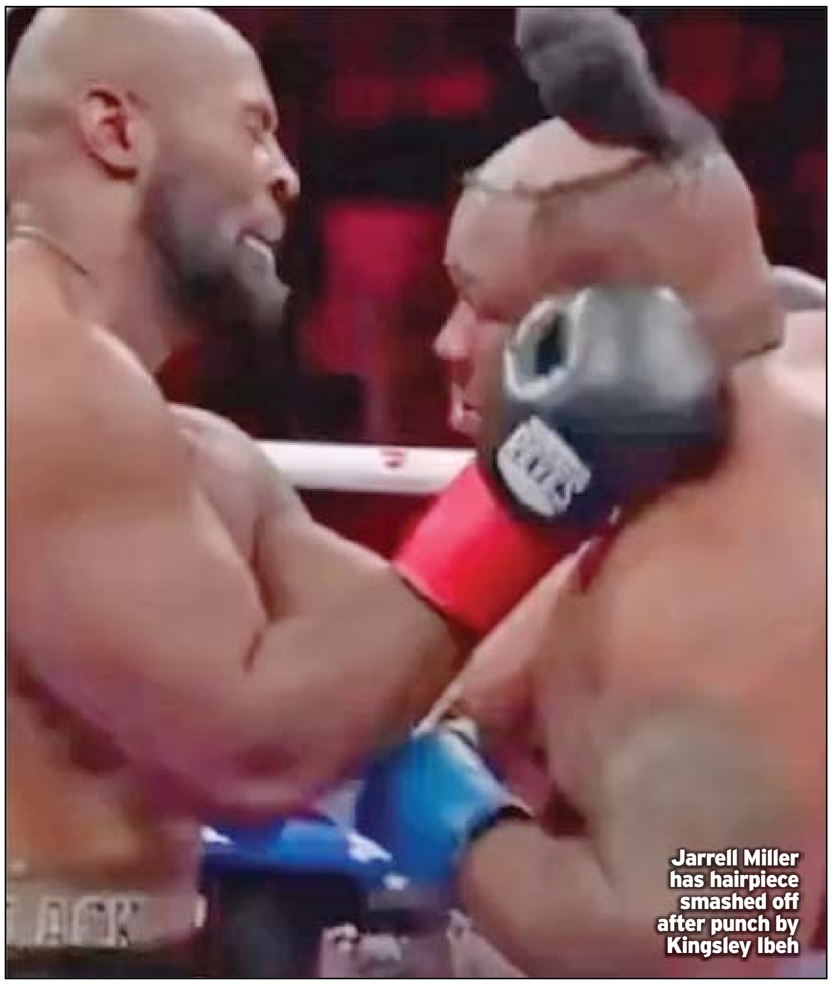

Jarrell Miller has hairpiece smashed off after punch by Kingsley Ibeh

# Hair-raising boxing bout!

BY **CALLUM HOARER**

**A BOXER had a bad hair day when his wig was punched off.**

**Heavyweight Jarrell Miller came a cropper during his bout with Kingsley Ibeh at New York's Madison Square Garden, when his hairpiece came away.**

**The US fighter, 37, finished the match without it and won by split decision.**

**Afterwards Miller saw the funny side and revealed he had lost his hair two days earlier due to mistaking his mum's hair removal cream for shampoo. He added: "I called my manager and said, 'Get me one of those manes'. And I slapped that on real quick."**

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Passengers helped to safety after underground trains power outage

# ‘We are freezing to death’...toll of blackouts at -16C

## LIFE IN KYIV

**JOHN MARONE**

**Despatch from the frontline**

CRITICAL infrastructure in Kyiv and much of the western half of Ukraine shut down suddenly on Saturday, just as a blistering frost took hold.

Long used to unscheduled blackouts and widespread shut-offs of heat and water following Moscow’s month-long air assault on its power plants, the city of three million suddenly found itself with virtually no utilities at all.

Even the Metro system, a bastion of affordable reliability in the worst of times, stopped dead in its tracks, leaving commuters huddled in front of turnstiles on the blink.

Rescuers had to be called in to extract one unlucky trainload of passengers who found themselves trapped in one of the system’s cavernous underground shafts, 100 metres below the city with no light.

Authorities called the shutdown “a technical disruption” related to power lines that run into Moldova and Romania.

Roman, my neighbour, who organised a collection to pay a private technician to restore heat in our own building after a broken pipe left us all freezing, called it “a cluster f***”.

As angry and bewildered residents gathered on the stairwells to exchange conspiracy theories and gripes, he assured us that power would likely be restored by the next day.

Others were not so sanguine with temperatures already dropping to -16C. One woman, Tanya, holding her toddler grandson by the hand in the courtyard, was frantic.

She said: “We are freezing to death. And when I asked for advice on how to keep warm, I was told to have more sex!”

Others said they had resorted to turning on all the burners of their gas stoves to warm up.

Rescuers helping child and others escape tunnel

### Surviving

Anatoliy, who lives on the Left Bank, which in some places has turned into a tent camp where residents can warm up and charge phones, said sitting at home was worst of all. He said: “I’ve got a broken rib but still go outside for a walk to avoid freezing.”

But with most of the city’s pavements covered with ice, walking is no less dangerous – even if in response to the call of nature. Some buildings have been without plumbing for so long the city has announced it will set up portable toilets on streets to avoid a sanitary crisis.

Vladimir Putin made a dubious offer to refrain from hitting Ukrainian power plants until February 1 – described by Donald Trump as “very nice”.

The Russians did not, however, nicely refrain from launching 90 drones against Ukraine on Saturday night, or killing at least 15 in a strike yesterday on a bus carrying mineworkers in southeastern city Dnipro.

Even if worse attacks don’t follow immediately, Ukrainians can still look forward to night-time lows of -26C, as power and heating plants, gradually restored to working, struggle to cope with the current workload.

The only thing to hope for in the meantime, according to Anatoliy, is spring.

“We are no longer living, we are just surviving,” he said.

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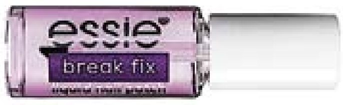
# BEAUTY

GET THAT GLOW

*Edited by* **LAURA MULLEY**

## *HIGH SOCIETY*

Series four of Bridgerton is back on our screens, and while we're used to cooing over the costumes, have you ever wondered what scent characters such as Penelope Featherington and Queen Charlotte might wear? Floral Street founder Michelle Feeney certainly has, creating Enchanted Masquerade Eau de Parfum, from £29 for 10ml, in collaboration with the hit Netflix period drama, a romantic floral gourmand with notes of juicy pear, gardenia, rose and musks.



## A fix at your fingertips

There's little more annoying than successfully growing out your fingernails long and strong, only for one to break halfway down. Now there's no need to trim them all short – simply apply a couple of layers of Essie's new Break Fix, £14.99, to the area to quickly repair the damage. Acting like a liquid plaster, it dries hard to seal up nail snags and separated edges for up to five days, saving you from a mani-mergency.

## READY, SET, BAKE

Looking for a mess-free way to mattify? Huda Beauty's Easy Bake Loose Setting Powder is now available in a convenient pressed version, £32, delivering a flawlessly blurred, airbrushed finish to your make-up with any fallout. Available in eight shades, each named after a sweet treat, it promises to keep unwanted shine under control for up to 12 hours without looking cakey or dry.

## *FRUITY FAVOURITE*

Get ready for a real beauty blast from the past, as perhaps The Body Shop's most iconic 90s creation, Dewberry, is back by popular demand. The first fragrance love of many a millennial, you'll instantly recognise this fresh, sweet, juicy scent, now available to enjoy all over again in a shower gel, body butter, body yogurt, hand cream, body mist and perfume oil. Prices start from £3.50.

# HEALTH & BEAUTY

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**PLUS** Horoscopes
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## CALM AND CORRECT

Rosy cheeks might sound cute but if you struggle with skin that's prone to unwanted redness, flushing or rosacea, you probably don't think so. Here to help is Erborian's new and improved Centella Redness Relief range, £25-£38, which contains calming cica and consists of a serum, cream, balm and colour-correcting CC cream to soothe and conceal flare-ups. 100% of testers said redness in their bare skin was reduced after using these.

erborian
CENTELLA RED SERUM

## HEALTH LIVE LIFE WELL

*Edited by* **MATT NIXSON AND HANNA GEISSLER**

# Waking up to the hidden health risks behind low appetite

*Eating less is often dismissed as something that comes with age or illness. But experts warn it's not inevitable and there can be long-term side-effects and hidden dangers* BY MATT NIXSON

**DANGERS** *If you're off your food, it could be that you are seriously lacking in nutrients*

Low appetite is rarely seen as a health issue. More often, it's brushed aside as "not being that hungry", a side-effect of stress or simply a feature of ageing. But eating too little over time can undermine strength, recovery, immunity and long-term independence. It's also easy to miss. Weight does not always fall dramatically and people can appear "fine" while eating less and less. Yet reduced food intake means fewer calories, less protein and fewer vitamins and minerals that support muscle, cognition and immunity.

A reduced appetite can be triggered by ageing, dementia, illness, medications, stress, bereavement, loneliness and depression.

Understanding why appetite reduces and how to support nutrition when intake is genuinely low is increasingly seen as key to protecting health in mid to later life.

## AGEING AND DEMENTIA

Appetite commonly declines with age but is rarely recognised as a red flag.

**RECIPES** *Rob Hobson*

Nutritionist Rob Hobson, whose Low Appetite Cookbook is out now, says that while energy needs may fall, nutritional needs do not.

"People assume being less hungry as you get older is normal," he explains. "But it can lead to real nutritional gaps and muscle loss if it persists."

Protein requirements actually increase with age because older muscles respond less efficiently to protein. Taste and smell dull, digestion slows and chewing may be more difficult. Appetite cues weaken and meals are skipped simply because hunger isn't felt clearly. Social factors contribute too.

"Eating is a social behaviour," Rob says. "When people live alone or lose a partner, meals are often skipped or simplified."

Dementia adds further complexity. People may forget to eat, fail to recognise hunger or become overwhelmed by the steps involved in preparing or consuming food. Fatigue and confusion can result in meals left unfinished or uneaten.

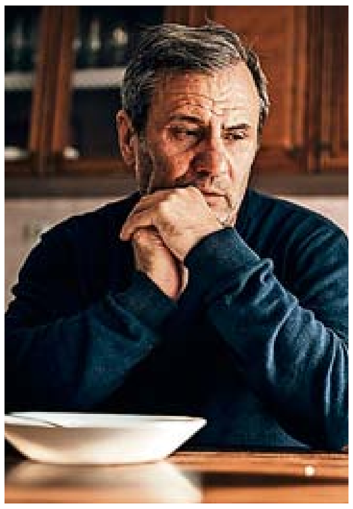
"Low appetite in older adults is often missed because weight doesn't always change," Rob notes.

"You can maintain your weight but still be low in protein, fibre and key micronutrients. When low appetite persists, the consequences tend to creep in quietly. You may see more fatigue, slower recovery from illness or injury, increased falls risk and a gradual loss of muscle strength.

"People often say they feel 'less robust' or that knocks and infections seem to hit them harder than they used to.

"Over time, this loss of muscle and strength is what threatens independence."

Nutrients commonly falling short include protein, iron, vitamin B12, vitamin D, calcium, magnesium and zinc.



## SICKNESS OR RECOVERY

Illness is another major driver of reduced appetite. Rob explains that during infection, the body prioritises immune defence over digestion.

"Appetite is temporarily suppressed because digestion becomes a lower priority," he says.

Short-term this is protective, but longer periods can increase nutritional risk. Fatigue, breathlessness, nausea and taste changes can all suppress eating, while chemotherapy may make food taste metallic or unappealing.

Soft, easy-to-manage foods such as yogurt, soups, scrambled eggs and fortified puddings are often better tolerated. Oral nutrition drinks may help when full meals aren't possible.

Rob also notes that some people with persistently low appetite may benefit from an age-appropriate multivitamin as a pragmatic nutritional back-up to cover predictable gaps without replacing food entirely. "Low appetite becomes clinically meaningful when intake stays low for a couple of weeks or when someone is losing weight, strength or struggling to recover," adds Rob. This is particularly risky in older adults.

During recovery, focus less on traditional meals and more on regular, manageable nourishment. Batch-cooked soups and soft protein-rich meals that can be reheated easily are often more appealing when energy is low. Taste can also change dramatically during illness, and

symptoms such as nausea, mouth ulcers or a sore mouth can make acidic, spicy or dry foods harder to tolerate, so softer textures and blander flavours can be more successful.

### LINK TO STRESS

A reduced appetite is a common response to stress. When the nervous system senses threat, the body shifts into survival mode and digestion is deprioritised. Stress hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol can slow stomach emptying or cause nausea, tightness or early fullness.

Dr Meg Arroll, chartered psychologist and author of Tiny Traumas, says the key is not to force food but to reduce perceived threat.

"Small signals of safety such as slowing the breath, grounding through the feet or stepping into daylight can help digestion return," she explains. "As the body senses less threat, hunger usually returns naturally."

For many people, racing thoughts and hyper-focus during stressful periods can make meals easy to forget or feel unappealing, compounding low hunger cues.

> *'As the body senses less threat, hunger usually returns naturally'*

### LINK TO MEDICATIONS

Some medicines reduce appetite by causing nausea, altering taste, slowing digestion or affecting hunger hormones. Antibiotics, painkillers, antidepressants, blood pressure medicines and chemotherapy are common culprits.

Dr Gareth Patterson, known as The Irish GP, says: "Medicines can blunt appetite by making food taste different, slowing the gut or causing nausea. It's surprisingly common but often missed."

If it is affecting you, ask your pharmacist about alternative formulations, adjust timing if safe to do so, use oral nutrition drinks temporarily if weight loss is rapid and request a medicine review if appetite loss persists.

### LINK TO LONELINESS AND LOW MOOD

Low appetite is a frequent companion of loneliness and depression. The brain's motivation and reward systems tend to quieten, making food feel flat, too much effort or emotionally irrelevant. Loneliness adds a particular layer because eating is a deeply social behaviour.

Dr Meg Arroll recommends anchoring eating to time rather than waiting for hunger.

"Waiting to feel hungry can mean waiting all day," she says. Pairing meals with company, such as eating in a cafe, with radio or with a friend on a phone call, can also make eating more pleasurable."

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Instead of pushing bigger meals, Rob Hobson recommends making every mouthful count.**

**"Greek yogurt with nut butter, scrambled eggs on toast or soups enriched with beans, lentils or olive oil are often well tolerated," he says. Small protein-based snacks or a simple protein shake can also help without feeling overwhelming.**

**"With a low appetite, the aim is to make every mouthful count rather than pushing bigger portions. Nourishing snacks such as cheese and crackers, fortified soups or a simple protein shake can make a meaningful difference without feeling overwhelming."**

**Small changes can significantly reduce nutritional risk when intake is limited. Prioritise high-quality protein, fortify everyday meals, choose full-fat options, snack with purpose, stick to routine and consider supplements. Age-specific multivitamins tailored for older adults, such as Healthspan 50+ or 70+, can support micronutrient intake when food isn't enough. Protein powders can also top up intake without big portions.**

**Experts also suggest maintaining routine when appetite signals are weak, as waiting for hunger can mean long stretches without nourishment.**

**Low appetite is not a harmless quirk or an inevitable part of ageing. Left unaddressed, it can affect strength, recovery, immunity and independence. Identifying why it's happening and making small, realistic adjustments can help protect long-term health.**

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# Menopause and winter make UTIs a real pain

*Uncomfortable urinary tract infections are rampant but there are steps you can take to cut your risk* BY MATT NIXSON

**EXPERT ADVICE**
*Dr Janine David*

Urinary tract infections, or UTIs, are one of the most common reasons people visit their GP or pharmacist, accounting for 23% of all infections. And cystitis is top of the list. Symptoms such as a burning sensation when you pee, constant trips to the loo and dark, cloudy urine with a strong smell could all signal a cystitis infection – which can also cause lower tummy pain, fever, incontinence and a general feeling of being unwell.

"Around a third of women will experience cystitis by the age of 24, and one in three women will develop a UTI during their lifetime," explains women's health expert Dr Janine David. "In fact, one in three women will also have recurrent cystitis."

Fortunately it's fairly easy to deal with by visiting your pharmacist for advice and over-the-counter treatments, as Dr David explains.

Cystitis occurs when bacteria enters your bladder through your urethra, the tube that carries urine out of your body. This often happens if bacteria from your rectum or vagina spread to the opening of your urethra. The resulting acidic urine causes the familiar pain and/or burning when you pee. Women are up to 30 times more likely to suffer than men because the female urethra is shorter and closer to the anus. Pregnancy and menopause also both increase risk.

"During pregnancy, hormonal changes and pressure on the bladder can prevent complete emptying, allowing bacteria to multiply," says Dr David. "During menopause, falling oestrogen levels thin the urinary tract and disrupt protective bacteria, while a shortening urethra allows bacteria easier access to the bladder, says Dr David.

"And winter only makes things worse."

## CHILLING POINT

Cold weather changes how we behave – and that can quietly fuel cystitis.

"As temperatures drop, we naturally drink less, even though fluids are essential for flushing bacteria from the bladder," explains Dr David.

"Urine becomes more concentrated, which irritates the bladder and creates the perfect environment for infection."

Layering up in tight winter clothing traps warmth and moisture, encouraging bacterial growth, while immune function also dips in colder months – making us more vulnerable to infections of all kinds. Cystitis can often be caused by so-called cold diuresis, which is the body's way of preventing hypothermia. When the body conserves heat, the kidneys produce more urine. Without enough fluid intake, waste becomes concentrated, irritating the bladder and encouraging infection.

## EIGHT TIPS TO AVOID AND TACKLE CYSTITIS

1 **Stay warm with herbal teas** When it's cooler, you may automatically drink less water. But, as Dr David explains: "Drinking water or herbal tea such as chamomile, helps strengthen your pee stream and reduces the chances of bacteria sticking to the wall of your bladder and urinary tract. Drinking plenty will also ensure you pee more, which helps to flush out bacteria."

2 **Watch how you wash** Nights in, and warming up in the bath might be more appealing during winter but all those fragranced bubbles aren't great for your genital area as they can cause irritation.

"The skin around the genital area is very delicate, and these products can disrupt the natural balance of bacteria and moisture, making cystitis more likely. Try unfragranced products and make sure you dry off properly after washing," says Dr David.

3 **Alternate alcohol with water** Red wine by the fire, drinks in the pub after work…while alcohol doesn't directly cause cystitis, it is a diuretic, leading to more concentrated urine, which can irritate the bladder lining.

"Alternate alcohol with water to counteract the effects of alcohol," warns Dr David. Avoid fizzy drinks too as they can irritate the urinary tract.

4 **Cut back on crisps** Ultra-processed comfort foods might be your go-to during cosy winter evenings indoors, but they could heighten your risk of developing cystitis. "These can irritate the bladder lining in some people and may also contribute to dehydration, a known trigger for cystitis symptoms," says Dr David. Salt is particularly dehydrating. Swap crisps and salty snacks for unsalted nuts or veggie sticks with dips.

5 **Nutrients matter** Immunity is key in the fight. Dr David says: "Vitamins A, B6, B12, C and D, plus minerals zinc, selenium iron and copper all support immune function." Find these in leafy green veg, citrus fruits, berries, carrots, sweet potatoes, eggs, dairy, nuts, seeds, wholegrains, beans and lentils. Tuck into omega-3 fatty acids, found in oily fish such as salmon, too.

"A balanced diet, rich in fruit and vegetables, with lean proteins and wholegrains, can help to keep your immune system healthy and strong, and more able to fight off infections such as cystitis."

6 **Choose cotton underwear** "Cotton underwear is soft and allows the vagina to 'breathe'. This helps reduce moisture and irritation, creating an environment less likely to encourage bacterial growth," says Dr David.

Stay clear of synthetic fabrics worn for long periods, which can trap heat and moisture. Tight, thick winter clothing can increase sweating around the genital area, so opt for loose, breathable fabrics.

7 **Always wee after sex** Sex-induced cystitis accounts for around 60% for recurrent cases. Keeping bacteria away from your urethra can help to avoid cystitis.

"Try to empty your bladder after sex and lean back on the toilet when passing urine to wait for the last few drops to pass out. Drink a large glass of water after having sex too as this strengthens the pee stream and stops bacteria sticking inside the urinary tract," says Dr David.

If you develop cystitis, it's best to avoid sex as it can cause friction and irritation in the urethra.

8 **Relieve symptoms** Over-the-counter Effercitrate tablets are a simple solution if cystitis strikes. Dr David says: "Available without a prescription or a urine sample, the lemon and lime flavoured effervescent tablets contain potassium citrate when dissolved, which makes the urine more alkaline, helping soothe the bladder and urethra lining and relieve discomfort."

## WHEN TO SEE A GP

**If symptoms don't improve within a couple of days, book a GP appointment or visit a walk-in centre.**

**Dr David advises seeing your GP if cystitis is frequent, if you're pregnant, or if you're a man with symptoms. Cystitis is rarer in men and might indicate a more serious issue. Your GP may test a urine sample to confirm the infection and give you a short course of antibiotics.**

## WIPE HABITS

**How are you wiping when you go to the toilet? If you're wiping from back to front, then you increase your risk of transferring bacteria from the anus to the urinary tract, raising your risk of cystitis infection. "Always wipe from front to back," says Dr David. Soiled incontinence pads should also be changed promptly, and the genital area kept clean and dry.**

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# Left in confusion with heart issues and palpitations

SLOW SIGNAL
*to the node*

**Q I’ve had occasional palpitations recently, so my doctor arranged for me to have an ECG which has shown I have first degree heart block. This sounds really alarming, but my GP seemed unconcerned. What exactly is it, and does it need any treatment? I take medication for high blood pressure, but otherwise I’m well.**

**A** The beating of the heart is controlled by electrical signals that travel from the top chambers (the atria) to the lower chambers (the ventricles) through a cluster of special cells, the A-V node. In heart block, there is a problem with the transmission of the signal though the node.

There are several types of heart block, and in type 1, the mildest form, the signal just moves more slowly than normal through the node. This means the contractions of the ventricles, which control the heart rate, may be a little slower, but they still beat regularly.

Many people with first degree heart block are unaware they have it, and it is only discovered when an electrical recording (ECG) of the heart is done for another reason, though occasionally it can case tiredness and slight breathlessness on exercise.

It can be caused by some medications, including calcium channel blockers, such as amlodipine, and also beta blockers, such as propranolol, both of which can be used to treat high blood pressure, so it would be worth asking if your tablets could be to blame.

It can also occasionally be caused by changes in the level of potassium in the blood, so this should be checked, especially as you may be on medications that could affect this.

First degree heart block does not usually require any treatment, and please be assured your heart will not suddenly stop. It is unlikely to be linked to your palpitations, and to find the cause of these you will probably need a much longer ECG, done over between three and seven days, depending on how often your palpitations tend to occur. You wear the recording device all the time, and the aim is to pick up what happens to your heart when you experience symptoms.

**Q I have an enlarged prostate gland which means I pass urine more slowly than before. I’ve been prescribed tamsulosin tablets, and though my urine flow has improved, I often feel quite sick and tired. I tried stopping the tablets and the nausea and my energy levels improved, so I’m sure they are to blame, but my poor urine flow returned. Is there anything else I could try?**

**A** The prostate gland surrounds the urethra, the pipe that carries urine from the bladder to the penis. Benign (that is, non cancerous) enlargement of the prostate is very common in older men, and this can lead to narrowing of the urethra, and difficulty in passing urine.

Tamsulosin, which is a type of drug known as an alpha blocker, works by relaxing the muscles at the base of the bladder and in the prostate, which can make it easier to pass urine. Unfortunately, as with so many medications, it can cause side effects, including dizziness and headaches, feeling tired, diarrhoea and nausea. These often improve as your body gets used to the drug, so you may feel better after you have taken it for a few weeks. If not, there are other medications that are worth trying.

Enlargement of the prostate is caused by a variant of testosterone, known as dihydrotestosterone, and drugs such as finasteride and dutasteride stop this being formed, and can help to shrink the prostate.

The most common side effects of these are problems with sexual function, and they may also cause breast enlargement in some men.

However, if you find the side effects are really troublesome, then having surgery to remove the excess prostate tissue may be the best option for you.

There are several different types of surgery, which our GP should be able to explain to you in more detail.

**Q For the past couple of weeks I’ve had severe pain when I pass a motion. My doctor saw me, and has told me I have an anal fissure, and given me cream to use containing GTN, which I thought was a heart drug. How will this help me?**

**A** An anal fissure is a small tear in the lining of entrance to the back passage, and the most usual cause is constipation, when the stools can become very hard, and more difficult to pass. Anal fissures are common, and can occur in anyone including young children, but the issue tends to mostly affect young and middle-aged adults. A fissure can cause really quite severe pain when you pass a motion and sometimes they can bleed as well.

The diagnosis can usually be made easily by a doctor examining the entrance to the back passage. Small fissures usually heal in a couple of weeks, as long as you make sure your stools are really soft, which means eating a high fibre diet. Stool softeners, such as Movicol (available from chemists) can be helpful too. When you have a fissure the muscles around the anus tend to go into spasm, and this can squeeze the small blood vessels that supply the area, delaying healing. Glyceryl trinitrate can help to relax the muscles, and it also widens the blood vessels, which is why it is used in people with heart disease with narrowed coronary arteries.

When applied as an ointment to the back passage it can improve blood supply to the damaged area, which can aid healing. But it is also absorbed into the blood stream and can cause widening of blood vessels elsewhere, including the head, leading to headaches. If these occur, stop using it for few days.

If a fissure persists, or returns, an injection of botulinum toxin (Botox) can be given, which helps the muscles in the area to relax. This is usually done in a specialist hospital rectal clinic, which requires a referral form your GP.

***If you have a health question for Dr Leonard, email her in confidence at yourhealth@express.co.uk. Dr Leonard regrets she cannot enter into personal correspondence or reply to everyone***

# RELIEF OVER ANTI-ACID MEDS LINK TO CANCER

Long-term use of anti-acid medication may not increase the risk of stomach cancer, says a reassuring new study.

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), commonly prescribed for acid reflux and ulcers, have been under scrutiny amid suggestions long-term use could risk a range of conditions.

Previous research has suggested a connection between PPIs and some forms of stomach cancers. However, researchers now argue that previous studies are “hampered by several limitations, making this possible association uncertain”. A new study, led by experts from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, analysed data from patients with gastric and oesophageal cancer from Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden between 1994 and 2000. The study looked at more than 17,000 individuals diagnosed with stomach cancer, compared to 170,000 who did not have the disease.

Long-term use of PPIs – exceeding a year – was noted in 10% of people with stomach cancer and 9.5% of those without. “No association was found between long-term proton pump inhibitor use and gastric adenocarcinoma,” they reported in the BMJ.

Researchers suggested previous research linking PPIs to stomach cancer may have been distorted due to the inclusion of PPI use just before a cancer diagnosis. These studies failed to account for other variables.

The authors said: “This finding should offer relief for patients needing long-term proton pump inhibitor therapy.

“However, long-term use may cause side effects and increase risk of other potentially serious conditions such as Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhoea, osteoporosis, and vitamin or electrolyte malabsorption.”

# TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

*by* **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

## SILENT WITNESS, BBC1, 9PM

DR Nikki Alexander is carrying out her first post-mortem of the new series, on a body found in the boot of a hitman's car. And she soon figures out what happened to this guy.

"The scan confirms internal bevelling deep to the entry wound," Nikki tells the lead detective, "with the bullet passing forwards and down through the basal ganglia."

Well, quite. But are there any clues that might help identify this guy? Well, yes, because she's also spotted a "linear scar to the left infraclavicular region" and "boxes palpable in the subcutaneous tissue". So I guess it'll be a piece of cake from here on in.

## PLATOON 24/7: PREPARING FOR WAR, 5, 9PM

THE raw recruits we follow in this series are members of the Army's Rifles infantry regiment. They come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of backstories, but the aim is to turn them into a proper band of brothers, a process that starts with a gruelling week of training.

The "preparing for war" part of the title does sound alarmist, but then it's only really stating the obvious. Ultimately, what else would a bunch of soldiers be preparing for? Biscuit week on Bake Off?

*Pick of the day*

**SECRET GENIUS**

**C4, 9PM**

**SMART PAIR** *Alan Carr and Susie Dent*

# MY NEW FAVE TOP SECRET SHOW

YES, we're getting two nights of Secret Genius on the trot. I have to say this makes me very happy. I'm already a big fan. Could it be my new favourite show? I have one of those about twice a week, so yes, it could easily be, at least until Thursday.

If you didn't catch last night's opening episode – or even if you did, it makes no odds – it's an IQ challenge hosted by Alan Traitor and Susie Countdown.

In some ways it's a bit like The Krypton Factor, but in most ways it isn't. For one thing, The Krypton Factor was never presented by a comedian, unless you find Ben Shephard more amusing than he means to be. For another, we get to learn a bit about the contestants on this new show, whereas The Krypton Factor was basically: "This is Brian, he's an estate agent from Slough and his hobbies include cutting his own hair", and that was pretty much your lot.

The key difference, though, is the clever people on this show don't realise they're clever. Or at least they've never been told they are. They must have had a hunch, or else they wouldn't have applied to take part, but broadly speaking they're low on self-esteem. This in itself makes me warm to them. They are everything Apprentice candidates aren't.

The show has been edited, of course, to have us rooting for certain participants, but that's just modern telly for you. Besides, last night's obvious favourite, 32-year-old single mum Ollie, an ambulance crew member, clearly deserved her extra airtime.

Her performance was far from faultless (where would be the joy in that?) but she easily surpassed her own expectations. When she did mess up, it seemed due to a lack of confidence. The same went for Jo, a sports management consultant, in her case costing her a place in the final.

Tonight we meet a further dozen, this time representing Scotland and the North East. They include Debs, 56, an HGV driver who seems to have amazing powers of recall. "I can remember all the lyrics of all the songs from the 1980s," is what she claims. True, do we think? Presumably, yes. That may even have been the first song she learned.

## BEST DRAMA

**INDUSTRY, BBC1, 10.40PM**

Things are beginning to look up for those behind the Tender business – they've landed their banking licence and found wealthy partners to help them launch their new app.

## BEST FOOD

**JAMIE'S FEASTS FOR A FIVER, C4, 8PM**

After whipping up a good-value shortcrust pastry, forming the basis for two beef and potato pasties, Jamie makes gnocchi with a creamy blue cheese and broccoli sauce.

## BEST FILM

**RETREAT, BBC2, 11.55PM**

Psychological thriller starring Cillian Murphy, Thandiwe Newton and Jamie Bell. A couple working through their relationship problems stumble upon a wounded soldier.

## BEST MYSTERY

**AFTER THE FLOOD, ITV1, 9PM**

We've reached the final episode of the drama's latest run, which hopefully means that the police can unmask the murderer. But there's a way to go before that happens.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

**FILM RATINGS**

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

## BBC One

**6.00am Breakfast** News headlines.
**9.30 Morning Live** Magazine.
**10.45 Rip Off Britain: Holidays** (R)
**11.15 Homes Under the Hammer** Property auctions. (R)
**12.15pm Bargain Hunt** Izzie Balmer and Nick Hall assist the two teams competing in Stafford.
**1.00 BBC News at One; Weather**
**2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes** The team search for lost graduation pictures. (R)
**2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence** Marcus gives a cooking demonstration at the farmers' market. (R)
**3.00 Escape to the Country** A theatre couple want to swap London life for West Yorkshire.
**3.45 Clean It, Fix It** Dog walker Rachel receives help to reclaim her house. (R)
**4.30 Antiques Road Trip** Margie Cooper and Danny Sebastian cruise through Scotland's Central Belt.
**5.15 Pointless** Quiz, with guest co-host Lauren Laverne. (R)
**6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather**
**6.30 Regional News; Weather**

## BBC Two

**6.05am Bargain Hunt** (R)
**6.50 Sign Zone: The Repair Shop** A vintage salon hairdryer. (R)
**7.50 Match of the Day** (R)
**9.00 BBC News**
**12.15pm Politics Live**
**1.00 Bridge of Lies** Quiz. (R)
**1.45 Unbeatable** Quiz. (R)
**2.15 The Boss** Quiz show. (R)
**3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse** Items include a pair of 1930s chairs. (R)
**3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA** Actress America Ferrera traces her ancestry. (R)
**4.15 Scotland from the Sky** A lost canal just outside Glasgow. (R)
**5.15 Flog It!** Valuing items at Sheffield's Cutlers' Hall. (R)
**6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** Fatiha El-Ghorri, Patrick Grant, Mr Motivator and Lauren Oakley take part.
**6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure** Clive heads to the city of Lago, where he does a workout in a street market, heads for the studio with local musicians and experiences the vibrancy of Nigerian art.

## ITV1

**6.00am Good Morning Britain** A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
**9.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
**10.00 This Morning** Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
**12.30pm Loose Women** Debate.
**1.30 ITV News; Weather**
**1.55 Regional News; Weather**
**2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal** David Dickinson and his team are in Stoke-on-Trent to assess items, including a ceramic cat bought in a charity shop just a few days earlier. (R)
**3.00 Time Is Money** Sara Davies hosts the quiz in which contestants are given their prize money before they have answered a question.
**3.59 Regional Weather**
**4.00 Deal or No Deal** Gameshow, hosted by Stephen Mulhern.
**5.00 The Chase** Roger, Bryony, Cecelia and Chris take part.
**6.00 Regional News; Weather**
**6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather**

## Channel 4

**6.25am Cheers** Triple bill. (R)
**7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond** Triple bill of the sitcom. (R)
**9.10 Frasier** Four episodes. (R)
**11.10 American Pickers** (R)
**12.05pm Channel 4 News**
**12.10 Car S.O.S** A 1955 Ford. (R)
**1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (R)
**2.10 Countdown** With Dr Ranj Singh in Dictionary Corner.
**3.00 A Place in the Sun** (R)
**4.00 A New Life in the Sun** Former soap star Stephen begins a new life out of the spotlight as a B&B host in Italy, and couple Sharon and Dave try to launch events at their French chateau.
**5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream** The second heat begins with new contestants tackling attic snug transformations that will test their team dynamics, creativity and design skills.
**6.00 A Place in the Sun** Jasmine Harman helps Danielle and Tony to find their Spanish holiday home near Estepona on the Costa del Sol, with beaches and promenades.

## 5

**6.00am Milkshake!** Children's TV.
**9.15 Jeremy Vine** Discussion.
**11.30 Storm & Alexis** Discussion.
**12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime**
**12.50 Matt Allwright** Debate.
**2.00 Vanessa** Discussion show.
**3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries** Charlie's Aunt Fifi is fatally poisoned. (R)
**4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** Carol pushes for big takings at her charity shop, Nigel hopes for a flawless gig, and Paul continues to expand his new barbecue venture.
**5.00 5 News at 5** Headlines.
**6.00** NEW **Love Nature** Eighth-generation Essex oyster fisherman Tom shares his reflections on heritage, stewardship and the urgent need to act now to safeguard oysters for future generations.
**6.05 The Motorway** Emergency patrol teams face medical problems, fast-lane pile-ups and bad driving on the nation's motorways. Two patrollers race to a serious car fire on the M60. (R); 5 News Update

**4.30pm, ANTIQUES ROAD TRIP:** Margie Cooper & Danny Sebastian

**8.30pm, UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE:** Amol Rajan

**8.30pm, CORONATION STREET:** Bernie and Mal

**8pm, JAMIE'S FEASTS FOR A FIVER:** Jamie Oliver

**6pm, LOVE NATURE:** Tom

## BBC One

7

**7.00 The One Show** With Alex Jones and Roman Kemp.
**7.30 EastEnders** At the Boxing Den, Vicki and Zack share a charged moment, which Mark spots, and Honey shows Bea the ropes during her first day at the Minute Mart.

8

**8.00 Our Man in Moscow** The BBC's Russia editor Steve Rosenberg reflects on how the country has changed in the 25 years he has been there and how the public's opinion of him has flipped in recent years.

9

**9.00** NEW **Silent Witness** Part one of two. Nikki and Jack hunt a suspected hitman, who later claims responsibility for a murder that gripped the nation, and which someone else is in prison for. Crime drama, starring Emilia Fox.

10

**10.00 BBC News at Ten**
**10.30 Regional News; Weather**
**10.40 Industry** After landing their banking licence, Tender partners with the wealth management arm of a global financial institution to launch their new 360-degree banking app. An article exposing Tender's business practices doesn't make the impression Harper had hoped for.

11

**11.40 The Traitors Ireland** Double bill. Tensions are high as suspicion is everywhere. An argument leaves the players reeling, and threatens to have an impact on the round table; as the game intensifies, a shocking turn of events leaves the players unsure of who to believe. Presented by Siobhan McSweeney. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

**1.20am** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.25-6.00am** BBC News

## BBC Two

**7.00 Global Eye** A look at the foreigners lured to fight on the frontline for Russia.
**7.30 Celebrity Mastermind** Clive Myrie invites Maryam Moshiri, Chesney Hawkes, Desiree Burch and Danny Robins to take to the black chair. (R)
**8.00 Only Connect Champion of Champions Special** The Strigiformes take on the Thrifters in the quiz. (R)
**8.30 University Challenge** Imperial College London takes on Warwick in the quarter-finals. Amol Rajan hosts.
**9.00 Lover, Liar, Predator** Documentary following four women who discovered they had each been controlled by the same man, and joined forces to end their nightmare and bring him to justice. Jenni, Natalie, Shannon and Robyn waive their anonymity to tell their story in chilling detail, laying bare the confusion, intricacies and frightening realities of coercive control, and revealing how they were trapped by Aaron Swan.
**10.30 Newsnight** Presented by Victoria Derbyshire; Weather
**11.00 What We Do in the Shadows** Double bill. Laszlo's father's ghost returns to make amends; Laszlo and Nandor try to exorcise a demon.
**11.55** FILM **Retreat** (2011, 15) A couple on an island find a stranger bearing a dire warning, but are not sure if he is telling the truth. Thriller, with Jamie Bell, Cillian Murphy and Thandiwe Newton. ★★★

**1.20am** Sign Zone: Waterloo Road (R) **2.20** Sign Zone: Death in Paradise (R) **3.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile (R) **4.15-6.30am** This Is BBC Two

## ITV1

**7.30 Fletchers' Family Farm** Kelvin takes his son Milo on an adventure to his first cattle market, and the pigs run amok as they are being moved into the woodland. Meanwhile, Liz single-handedly delivers a lamb.
**8.00 Emmerdale** Moira and Cain are arrested, and Ruby is overwhelmed with guilt.
**8.30 Coronation Street** Theo deserts Todd, Jack chooses Abi over Kevin, and Bernie is unnerved by Mal's presence on the street.
**9.00 After the Flood** As the police search for Declan, a bombshell revelation threatens Jo and Pat's investigation into Mackie, and the murderer is finally revealed. Thriller, starring Sophie Rundle and Jill Halfpenny. Last in series.
**10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather**
**10.30 Regional News; Weather**
**10.45** FILM **Taken 2** (2012, 15) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace and Famke Janssen. ★★★★

**12.15am** Shop on TV **3.00** The Hunting Wives. Sophie and Margo think Abby's case is solved, but Salazar discovers another crime scene and life in Maple Brook is more unsettled and treacherous than ever. Last in series. (R) **3.55** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape. **5.10-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

## Channel 4

**7.00 Channel 4 News** A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.
**8.00 Jamie's Feasts for a Fiver** Jamie Oliver demonstrates a good value shortcrust pastry, and is joined by Roopa Gulati, who cooks red lentil dal with spinach. Jamie also makes gnocchi with a creamy blue cheese and broccoli sauce.
**9.00 Secret Genius** Alan Carr and Susie Dent challenge 12 more contestants to compete for one of three places in the final by spotting the common link between words, solving an anagram, and taking a sweet shop-based memory test.
**10.00 Catching a Killer** The murder of Cumali Turhan, who was lured into a Chelmsford bar by a love rival in November 2024, where he was killed by a single knife stab to the neck, before his mutilated body was thrown out with the rubbish. (R)
**11.15 999: What Happened Next** Documentary following the work of investigators as they try to bring the guilty to justice, beginning with the fatal stabbing of a thief and a woman who finds her car engulfed in flames. (R)

**12.20am** Walter Presents: The Pushover **1.10** Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R) **2.00** David Baddiel: Cat Man (R) **2.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **3.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (R) **4.15** Kirstie's House of Craft (R) **4.35** Hollyoaks Omnibus (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

## 5

**7.00 Police Interceptors** Officers join the National Police Air Service to stop two suspects in a car believed to be on cloned plates – but that doesn't prevent the driver taking the pursuit into fields. (R); 5 News Update
**8.00** NEW **Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** Two officers pursue a driver who refused to pay for fuel at a petrol station near Immingham Dock, learning he might be high on magic mushrooms.
**9.00** NEW **Platoon 24/7: Preparing for War** Documentary following the 30 soldiers of 13 Platoon from the Army's Rifles Infantry regiment as they learn to live, work and play together ahead of deployment.
**10.30 Inside the Force** A man crashes a car into a garden wall and flees, but once arrested, there is suspicion he might be under the influence of drugs. Police are also called to the sudden death of a 41-year-old woman. (R)
**11.30 Traffic Cops** Just outside Ripley, Derbyshire, officers head to a set of roadworks following a tip-off that a driver is suspected of regularly driving to and from his place of work under the influence of drink. (R)

**12.30am** Car Pound Cops (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Friends: double bill (R) **3.45** Rich House, Poor House (R) **4.35** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

## ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

**6.00am** CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.35** Georgia and Tommy: Baby Steps **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **5.55** Celebrity Catchphrase

**7.00 Deal or No Deal** Gameshow.

**7.55** *NEW* **The Real Housewives of Orange County** Shannon is loving the single life as Jenn preps for her wedding.

**9.00 Love Island: All Stars** Reality show.

**10.05 The 1% Club** Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are about logic and common sense.

**11.05 Family Guy** Double bill.

**12.05am** American Dad! **1.05** Bob's Burgers **2.05** Plebs **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

## U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

**7.10am** James May's Things You Need to Know **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** How Britain Worked **11.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. With Si King and Dave Myers.

**6.00 Rick Stein's Road to Mexico**

**7.00 Would I Lie to You?** Panel show.

**7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games**

**9.00 QI XL** With Greg Proops, David O'Doherty and Reginald D Hunter.

**10.00 Will & Ralf Should Know Better** Will Mellor and Ralf Little test their modern-day manhood again.

**11.00 Taskmaster** The comedic contestants face challenges involving snowglobes and rubber ducks.

**12.00m't** Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Not Going Out **2.30** Not Going Out Christmas Special **3.30** Gadget Man **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

## E4 FREEVIEW 13

**6.00am** Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine: double bill

**6.00 The Simpsons** Double bill.

**7.00 Hollyoaks** Emotions flare as the McQueens gather for family therapy.

**7.30 The Simpsons** Lisa becomes emotionally attached to a beached whale.

**8.00 First Dates** Mancunian friends Megan and Ellena are on a double date.

**9.00 Gogglebox** Double bill.

**11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment** Jonny and Sarah fall for the gallic charms of a French lingerie model.

**12.10am** Naked Attraction. Dating show. **1.15** First Dates **2.15** Gogglebox **3.10** Naked Attraction **4.05** The Goldbergs **4.55-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

## ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

**9.00am** Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable. Five vicars answer Top 10 list questions and attempt to land a Perfect 10 to win a cash prize. **3.00** Millionaire Hot Seat **4.00** Time Is Money. Quiz, hosted by Sara Davies. **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Craig tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.

**6.00 Lingo** Triple bill. Adil Ray hosts the game in which three pairs of contestants use their skills to find words from the fewest letters possible.

**9.00 Millionaire Hot Seat** Double bill. Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz show where each episode sees six hopefuls compete for a one-million-pound prize.

**10.00 Tipping Point** Triple bill. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot.

**12.55am** Tenable **1.50** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

## U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.20** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

**6.00 Last of the Summer Wine** Triple bill.

**8.00 Judge John Deed** The judge presides over the case of a man who killed a paedophile, while Jo meets the real father of the boy she is trying to adopt.

**10.00 New Tricks** The team reopens the case of a pub landlord killed in a fire, ruled as suicide. Phil Davis guests.

**11.20 Waking the Dead** Part one of two. Eve links DNA evidence found at a traffic accident to a murder case she worked on while examining mass graves during the Balkan War. Starring Trevor Eve.

**12.40am** Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.40** The Thin Blue Line **2.25** Last of the Summer Wine **2.55** Art Detectives **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

## More4 FREEVIEW 18

**8.55am** Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

**6.55 Car S.O.S** Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend restore a Porsche belonging to a former ambulance driver.

**7.55 The Dog House** Eleven-year-old terrier cross Holly is shellshocked after losing her lifelong companion.

**9.00 Our Farm Next Door: Amanda, Clive and Kids** As the main interior work approaches completion, Amanda takes the girls on a camping trip.

**10.00 24 Hours in A&E** Double bill. A 21-year-old patient is brought in with a suspected stroke; a 74-year-old is rushed into St George's with a high heart rate.

**12.10am** Our Farm Next Door: Amanda, Clive and Kids **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Supermarkets Unwrapped: Fruit & Veg Aisle. Summer vegetables.

## Variations & S4C

**WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **7.00-7.30** Bear Grylls: Wild Reckoning. A married couple can't agree on what house to buy together. Bear puts the two through a raft-building challenge. **10.30-10.40** BBC Wales Today; Weather **11.40** Scrum V Highlights **12.10am** The Traitors Ireland. Tensions are high. **1.00-6.00am** BBC News

**WALES As BBC2 except: 7.00pm** The One Show **7.30-8.00pm** Scrum V Highlights

**MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

**CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Central **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central

**ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

**WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News West Country. The latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

**ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

**WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm** ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

**S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cais Quinnell **12.30** Heno **1.00** Iaith ar Daith **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cartrefi Cymru **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **8.25** *NEW* Ciao! Colleen Ag Owain. Colleen Ramsey and Owain Wyn Evans go on an Italian journey. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Ffermio. Weekly countryside and farming magazine. **9.35** Sgorio **10.05** Troseddau Cymru Gyda Sian Lloyd **11.05-11.30pm** Ar Led

## BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

**7.00pm The Catch Up** Today's news.

**7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants**

**7.30** *FILM* **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (2015, U) The lovable lamb spends his day off in the big city trying to save the farmer. Animation, featuring the voice of Justin Fletcher. ★★★★★

**8.45 Spud** Comedy drama, written by and starring Siobhan McSweeney.

**9.05 The Traitors Ireland** Double bill. An explosive argument leaves the players reeling; a shocking turn of events leaves the players uncertain.

**10.45 The Beauty Queen and the Catfish** Triple bill. The story of a group of women catfished by someone they believed to be a charming doctor, only to discover the truth was far more twisted.

**1.05am** RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World **2.20** Things You Should Have Done **3.50-4.00am** It's What She Would Have Wanted

## BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

**7.00pm Wild China** A look at animals inhabiting the Tibetan plateau.

**8.00 Art of Persia** Samira Ahmed goes back to when Persia faced its gravest threat. Last in series.

**9.00 Call My Bluff** With Joanna Lumley, Miles Kington, Rula Lenska and Ian Wooldridge. From 1979.

**9.30 Face the Music** With Joyce Grenfell, Richard Baker and Robin Ray. First broadcast in 1976.

**10.00 Brian Cox: Seven Days on Mars** The physicist fulfils a dream by going behind the scenes at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

**11.30 Voyage to Mars: The Longest Goodbye** Documentary following astronauts training for a three-year absence from Earth.

**12.55am** The Race to Mars: Tomorrow's World **1.25** Face the Music **1.55** Meet the Ancestors **2.25-3.25am** Art of Persia

## GB News FREEVIEW 236

**6.00am** Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. An up-to-the-minute take on the day's events.

**6.00 Dewbs & Co** Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

**7.00 Farage** An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

**8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation** Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

**9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay** Join Patrick for two hours of debate and news making interviews, as top guests tackle the issues that matter.

**11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition** Discussion and debate.

**12.00m't** The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

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# Sport

## SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

**6.00am** Sky Sports Catch Up **7.00** Deadline Day

**7.30pm** LIVE **MNF** Sunderland v Burnley (kick-off 8.00pm). The Premier League match at Stadium of Light. Burnley claimed a 2-0 win in August's reverse fixture at Turf Moor, but Sunderland have enjoyed a far stronger season than their fellow promoted side so far and will expect to make home advantage count this evening.

**11.00** Deadline Day **12.00m't** The Insiders **1.00** Super Bowl Opening Night. Players make their first public appearance during Super Bowl week.

**4.00-6.00am** LIVE **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Clippers v Philadelphia 76ers (tip-off 3.00am). Joining live coverage of the match at Intuit Dome.

## SKY SPORTS CRICKET

**6.00am** WPL **11.30** Best of England v South Africa **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** Big Bash League **1.00** WPL **2.00** SA20 **3.00** WPL **6.00** Big Bash League **7.00** SA20 **8.00** WPL **9.00** WPL **10.00** WPL **11.00** WPL **3.30am** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

## SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

**6.00am** Retro League One **8.00** FIFA Women's Champions Cup **9.00** SPFL Round-Up **9.15** SPFL Highlights **9.30** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Retro. The 2018 final. **10.30** EFL **11.00** Henrik Larsson: 20 Years On

**12.00noon** EFL Highlights **12.30** WSL **1.00** EFL Highlights **1.30** SPFL Round-Up **1.45** SPFL Highlights **2.00** FIFA Women's Champions Cup **3.00** EFL Highlights **3.30** SPFL Round-Up **3.45** SPFL Highlights **4.00** EFL Highlights **5.00** EFL League One Goals **5.30** EFL League Two Goals

**6.00** SPFL Round-Up **6.15** SPFL Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Highlights **7.30** EFL League One Goals **8.00** EFL League Two Goals **8.30** WSL **9.00** SPFL Round-Up **9.15** SPFL Highlights **9.30** FIFA Women's Champions Cup **10.00** FIFA Women's Champions Cup **10.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **11.30** EFL Greatest Games

**12.00m't** EFL **3.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00-6.00am** EFL Cup Retro. The 2011 final.

## SKY SPORTS GOLF

**6.00am** DP World Tour Golf **11.00** PGA Tour Golf

**4.00pm** You Can Play Golf **4.30** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **5.30** PGA Tour Champions

**6.30** DP World Tour Golf **7.00** PGA Tour Golf **8.00** PGA Tour Champions **9.00** PGA Tour Golf

**10.00** LIVE **TGL** Atlanta Drive Golf Club v Jupiter Links Golf Club. Coverage of the team match at SoFi Center in Palm Beach, Florida.

**12.00m't** DP World Tour Golf **12.30** You Can Play Golf **1.00** PGA Tour Golf **2.00** How the 2010 Ryder Cup Was Won **4.00** Mark Roe's Short Game School **4.30** The Golf Fitness Show **5.00-6.00am** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer

## TNT SPORTS 1

**6.00am** Australian Open **7.30** Premier League **9.00** Original Documentary **9.15** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **10.15** Serie A **11.15** Australian Open. The women's singles final. **2.15pm** Premier League Stories **2.45** Premier League – The Big Interview

**3.15** LIVE **UEC Track Cycling Elite European Championship** Coverage from the second day of the event, which takes place in Konya, Turkey.

**6.45** Athletes to Watch. Maia and Alex Shibutani. **7.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **8.00** The Gruppetto **8.15** Crouchy and Cole **8.30** The Breakdown **9.00** Fishing: On the Bank **10.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **11.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **1.00am** T20 Super Smash **2.00** Women's T20 Super Smash **3.00** German Masters Snooker

**5.00-8.00am** LIVE **Snooker World Grand Prix** Coverage of the first session from the first day of the tournament at Kai Tak Arena in Hong Kong.

## TNT SPORTS 2

**6.00am** Women's T20 Super Smash **7.00** T20 Super Smash **8.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **10.00** The Breakdown **10.30** PREM Rugby Cup **11.30** Premiership Women's Rugby

**12.30pm** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **1.30** International T20 Cricket Highlights **2.30** Men's Cycling World Tour **3.30** Premier League **5.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **5.30** Ninja A-League Women Highlights. The 14th round of fixtures.

**6.00** LIVE **Ultimate Pool** Coverage of Group Five of the Women's Champions League, as leading eight-ball players battle it out.

**9.30** ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights **10.30** Men's Cycling Pro Series **11.30** Men's Cycling Pro Series **5.30am** The Gruppetto **5.45-6.00am** Crouchy and Cole

## BEST OF THE REST – LIVE SPORT

**7.00am** LIVE **Tennis** The WTA Abu Dhabi Open. Coverage of day two of the WTA 500 event, a hard-court tournament at Zayed Sports City International Tennis Centre. (Sky Sports +)

**9.00am-6.00pm** LIVE **Tennis** Coverage from the WTA and/or ATP Tours. (Sky Sports +)

**12.00m't** LIVE **NBA Basketball** Memphis Grizzlies v Minnesota Timberwolves (tip-off 12.30am). Coverage from FedExForum. (Sky Sports +)

**3.00-6.00am** LIVE **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Clippers v Philadelphia 76ers (tip-off 3.00am). Full coverage from Intuit Dome. (Sky Sports +)

# Entertainment & Factual

## ITV3 Freeview 10

**6.00am** Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Foyle's War **11.50** Trial & Retribution **1.25am** The Larkins **2.15-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

## ITV4 Freeview 26

**6.00am** The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** Formula E Highlights **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** FILM Under Siege (1992/15) Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal. ★★★★ **11.05** FILM Thunderball (1965/PG) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. ★★★ **1.30am** Lost **2.15** Auto Mundial **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

## 5STAR Freeview 32

**8.00am** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** Ambulance: Code Red **10.00** A&E After Dark **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Plastic Surgery Knifemares **1.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Friends

## REALLY Freeview 44

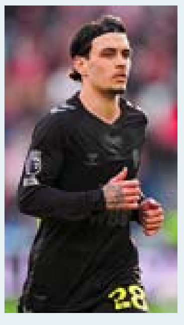
**7.00am** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Secret Life of the Auction House **10.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

## 5ACTION Freeview 33

**9.00am** Traffic Cops **10.00** Police Interceptors **12.00noon** FILM Rough Night in Jericho (1967/12) Western, starring George Peppard. ★ **2.10** FILM Chief Crazy Horse (1955/PG) Fact-based Western, starring Victor Mature. ★★★ **4.00** Trucking Heavy **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **7.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **8.00** Police Interceptors **9.00** Police Raid: Minute by Minute **10.00** Police: Night Shift 999 **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

## SKY ARTS Freeview 36

**6.00am** A Swan Lake **7.55** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Lee Marvin **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Anthony Quinn **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Andre Rieu: Shall We Dance?. An open-air concert in Maastricht. **11.00** Classic FM's Rising Stars with Julian Lloyd Webber 2025 **12.00m't** Nigel Kennedy: The Four Seasons **1.10** Lang Lang: My Favourite Melodies **2.20** Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth **3.40** Landmark **4.40-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures



**Live MNF**
**Sky Sports Main Event, 7.30pm**
Enzo Le Fée (left) and Sunderland are looking for a strong end to the season. They will fancy their chances of three points when they host relegation-threatened Burnley at the Stadium Of Light.

## U&GOLD

**7.30am** Ever Decreasing Circles **8.05** The Green Green Grass **8.45** Dad's Army **9.25** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.35** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.40** Only Fools and Horses **12.40am** Men Behaving Badly **1.20** Keeping Up Appearances **2.00** The Green Green Grass **2.40-4.00am** Avoidance

## U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

**6.10am** Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** World War Weird **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve **9.00** Cornwall with Simon Reeve **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00m't** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** World War Weird

## U&ALIBI

**7.15am** Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Evil **3.00-4.00am** Far North

## SKY MAX

**6.00am** Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip **10.00** An Idiot Abroad **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

## SKY ATLANTIC

**6.00am** The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.55** Deadwood **6.55** Game of Thrones **9.00** A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms **9.40** The Last of Us **10.45** Deadwood **11.50** The Sopranos **3.00am** Game of Thrones **5.05-6.00am** Fish Town

## SKY WITNESS

**6.00am** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Blue Bloods **10.00** The Equalizer **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Caught on Dashcam **3.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

## SKY COMEDY

**8.00am** Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Real Time with Bill Maher. The comedian and guests discuss the week's events. **10.10** And Just Like That **11.05** Community **12.05am** Entourage **1.05** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

## DISCOVERY

**6.00am** How Do They Do It? **7.00** Goblin Works Garage **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** The Woodland Workshop **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **8.00** Scrapyard Dynasty **9.00** Secrets Underground **10.00** Ancient Unexplained Files **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Secrets Underground **2.00** Ancient Unexplained Files **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**8.00am** Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** Nazi Megastructures **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Secret Nazi Science **4.00** Gladiators: Warriors of the Ancient World **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Construction Fails **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Dutch Caribbean Coastguards. A look at some of the tactics that are used to intercept drug smugglers by land, sea and sky. **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Trafficked with Mariana Van Zeller **2.30** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales **5.00-5.30am** Teleshopping

# Radio

## BBC RADIO 1

**97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am** Newsbeat **7.00** Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Emil **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show with Daniel P Carter **1.00am** BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe **2.00** Anthems with Nat and Vicky **4.00** Pop Anthems with Matt and Mollie **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

## BBC RADIO 2

**88-91MHz 6.30am** Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **8.45** Radio 2 Piano Room **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **2.30** One Hit Wonders **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

## BBC RADIO 3

**90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am** Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Erik Chisholm **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Almost Famous **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

**CHOICE**
**Vernon Kay**
**Radio 2, 9.30am**
Radio 2's Piano Room makes a triumphant return to Maida Vale Studios this month with 16 live performances from a star-studded line-up including Tori Amos, Melanie C, Mumford And Sons, Labi Siffre and Squeeze. First up are Pulp, who sing a new song, one of their own classics and a cover version.

## BBC RADIO 4

**FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am** Today **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Cafe Hope **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** An American Journey **11.45** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Sanctuary: An Act of Defiance **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Relativity **2.45** Opening Lines **3.00** Great Lives **3.30** You're Dead to Me **4.00** Currently: RAAC and Ruin **4.30** Rewinder **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Just a Minute **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** Rethink **8.30** BBC Inside Science **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Cafe Hope **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The White Lady of Morecambe **11.00** Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Firewall **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

## BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

**693/909kHz 6.00am** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Monday Night Club **9.00** 5 Live Rugby **10.00** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

## BBC RADIO WALES

**FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am** News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Gwen John: A Portrait of Independence **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Justine Jones **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.00** Radio Wales Sport **8.00** Huw Stephens **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

## CLASSIC FM

**100-102MHz 6.30am** Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

## ABSOLUTE RADIO

**DAB 6.00am** Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

# Movies

## FILM4

**11.00am The Devil at 4 O'Clock** (1961/PG) Adventure, starring Spencer Tracy. ★★★

**1.45pm The Violent Men** (1955/PG) Western, starring Edward G Robinson. ★★★

**3.40 Arabesque** (1966/12) Spy thriller, starring Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren. ★★★

**6.00 Le Mans '66** (2019/12) Fact-based drama, with Matt Damon and Christian Bale. ★★★★

**9.00 Knock at the Cabin** (2023/15) Horror mystery, starring Dave Bautista. ★★★

**10.55 Chevalier** (2022/12) Premiere. Joseph Bologne competes against celebrated composer Christoph Gluck for the coveted position of head of the Paris Opera. Biopic drama starring Kelvin Harrison Jr. ★★★

**1.05-3.30am Blue Bayou** (2021/15) Drama, directed by and starring Justin Chon. ★★★★

## SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

**6.40am Cookster: The Darkest Days** (2024/15) See 11.40pm. ★★★

**8.45 Prisoner of War** (2025/15) See 9.40pm. ★★★

**10.45 The Ballad of Wallis Island** (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. ★★★★★

**12.30pm The Naked Gun** (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★

**2.05 Nuremberg** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★

**4.35 Smurfs** (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★

**6.15 The Cut** (2024/12) Sports thriller, starring Orlando Bloom and John Turturro. ★★★★

**8.00 The Naked Gun** (2025/15) Comedy reboot, starring Liam Neeson. ★★★★

**9.40 Prisoner of War** (2025/15) Action thriller, with Scott Adkins and Peter Shinkoda. ★★★

**11.40 Cookster: The Darkest Days** (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg. ★★★

**1.50am The Cut** (2024/12) See 6.15pm. ★★★★

**3.40 Xeno** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Lulu Wilson and Omari Hardwick. ★★★

**5.30-7.00am Super Charlie** (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. ★★★

## SKY CINEMA DRAMA

**4.10pm Escape to Victory** (1981/PG) Second World War drama, starring Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone. ★★★★

**6.10 Dunkirk** (2017/12) Christopher Nolan's wartime drama, with Fionn Whitehead, Mark Rylance and Kenneth Branagh. ★★★★

**8.00 I, Tonya** (2017/15) Biopic drama, starring Margot Robbie and Allison Janney. ★★★★

**10.05 Joker: Folie a Deux** (2024/15) Musical, with Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga. ★★

**12.25am It Ends With Us** (2024/15) Drama, with Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni. ★★★★

**2.45 Escape to Victory** (1981/PG) See 4.10pm. ★★★★

**4.50-7.10am The Blind Side** (2009/12) Fact-based drama, with an Oscar-winning Sandra Bullock alongside Quinton Aaron. ★★★★

## SKY CINEMA FAMILY

**4.00pm The Golden Compass** (2007/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards and Nicole Kidman. ★★★★

**6.00 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982/U) Sci-fi fantasy, starring Henry Thomas. ★★★★★

**8.00 IF** (2024/U) Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailey Fleming. ★★★★

**9.50 Journey to the Center of the Earth** (2008/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser and Josh Hutcherson. ★★

**11.25 Blueback** (2022/PG) Drama, starring Mia Wasikowska and Eric Bana. ★★★

**1.20am Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams** (2002/U) Adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas and Steve Buscemi. ★★★★

**3.15 Paulie** (1998/U) Family adventure, starring Gena Rowlands and Tony Shalhoub. ★★★

**5.00-7.00am Save the Cinema** (2022/12) Drama, starring Samantha Morton. ★★★

## TALKING PICTURES TV

**7.00pm The Footage Detectives**

**8.00 Reckless** Anna files for divorce.

**9.05 Gideon's Way** John Gregson stars.

**10.05 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor** Feature-length episode.

**12.10am The Proud and Profane** (1956/PG) Second World War romance, starring William Holden and Deborah Kerr. ★★

**2.20 Border Incident** (1949/PG) Action adventure, with Ricardo Montalban. ★★★

**4.15-5.25am Operation Stogie** (1959/U) Comedy, starring John Hewer. ★★★

## GREAT! MYSTERY

**6.00pm Sue Thomas: FBEye** Crime drama.

**7.00 Castle** American crime drama.

**8.00 Unforgettable** Crime drama.

**9.00 Ruby Herring Mysteries: Her Last Breath** (2019/PG) Thriller. ★★★

**10.55 Martha's Vineyard Mysteries: A Beautiful Place to Die** (2020/PG) Drama, starring Jesse Metcalfe and Sarah Lind. ★★

**12.50am The Ex Next Door** (2019/PG) Thriller, with Alicia Ziegler and Maiara Walsh. ★★★

**2.30 The Wrong Mother** (2017/PG) Thriller, starring Vanessa Marcil. ★★★

**4.00-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye**

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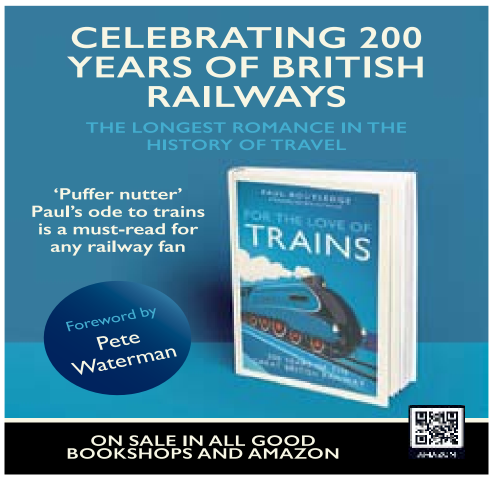
### LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that I, **Rory Kelly** have made an application under section 17 of part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the grant of a premises licence for the premises known as: **DrinkSloe** at 37 The Drive, Bardsey, Leeds, LS17 9AE We intend to conduct the following licensable activities on or from the premises: Sale of alcohol by retail every day from 7:00am – 23:00pm. There will be no public access to the premises at any time. Responsible authorities or any other person may make written representations to Leeds City Council about this application until 24/02/2026 which should be sent to entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk or Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact Entertainment Licensing on 0113 378 5029 or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.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# Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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## LETTER OF THE DAY

Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson backs our call

### Big beasts to help deliver a proper Brexit

THANK goodness Nigel Farage, Kemi Badenoch, Jacob Rees-Mogg and Boris Johnson are joining forces and backing a campaign supported by the Daily Express to "Give us a roper Brexit".

It's about time too – the country has been betrayed despite 17.4 million voting to quit the bloc. How dare Keir Starmer try to hitch us back to Brussels via the back door just because he didn't like the way we voted and has tried to block the massive potential of a "Proper Brexit" at every opportunity.

Hopefully with these heavyweights behind the campaign the many benefits of our Brexit freedoms can be seized and Starmer blocked from a return to the Brussels interference.

**Julie Foster,**
*Burnley, Lancs*

### Labour abandons Waspis while it bankrolls illegals

WHAT do you expect from this Labour Government, it does not work for the British born people ("'Cruel' Waspi decision 'amounts to declaration of war on OAPs'", January 30)?

We can find money for illegal migrants who come into this country, free board and lodging, laundry done and then if allowed to stay, jump the housing queue and are given a house.

This Labour Government will never work for the British people and it is time to get them out.

**Pauline Simpson,**
*Stafford*

### Governments have long history of fleecing Brits

THE Waspi women must have known from the start that they were onto a loss. If they had been civil servants or union members, they would have received an apology and a huge lump sum.

Some of us who served for over nine years in the Navy had money deducted to pay for a pension.

When it was due it was cancelled, only to be reintroduced a few years later. We never received a penny. You cannot trust a single thing governments promise, unless it is for their sole benefit.

I dread the new deals this lame Government makes with the Chinese, it will ruin our close relationship we have with the US.

Starmer's aim is to destroy us and our armed forces as he is anti-British. Can you name one thing that he has done that benefits us?

**Donald Wiseman,**
*Norwich*

### China's London spy HQ to vet us all before we fly

WOW. We can all go to China without a visa now ("PM's 'warm' talks could see Xi make controversial return visit to Britain...", January 30).

I presume that is because we will already be vetted by the new embassy intercept before take-off.

Long live Chairman Keir.

**Glenn Llewellyn,**
*Burgh le Marsh, Lincs*

### Will Starmer sell us out for a bag of magic beans?

KEIR Starmer is supposedly doing a deal with China. Will he swap prime cattle for a bag of beans?

**Duncan Hartley,**
*Solihull, W Mids*

### Chinese takeaway leaves PM Keir empty-handed

IN HIS latest attempt to avoid his government's chaos at home, Keir Starmer sought to seal his place among world leaders by his "momentous" visit to China – but what has he actually achieved?

His hope of a trade deal achieved a small reduction in the Scotch whisky tariff, his pledge to improve China relationships resulted in 30-day, visa-free holidays and hopes of attracting Chinese investment went the wrong way with AstraZeneca's £11billion investment in China. President Xi must be thinking that, with such a nitwit leading the UK, whether he really needs a new spying embassy in London.

**Roy Daniels,**
*Kingsclere, Hants*

### Conservative Party has failed MPs and electorate

MANY Daily Express readers have written about the Tories defecting to Reform as failed Members of Parliament ("New recycling centre for washed-up Conservatives", January 30).

Is it not possible that these people have the interests of the country at heart but are thwarted in their attempts to implement them because of the party leader and their powerful allies won't stray from their own vision?

Maybe they think Reform actually believes in the same things and will actually do the right thing.

**Bob Porritt,**
*Dewsbury, W Yorks*

### Kemi's a true-blue Tory but can't do it all alone

IT SOUNDS as if we now have one real Tory within the Conservative Party in the form of Kemi Badenoch ("Kemi: My party is for serious people and not drama queens", January 29). After years of poor governance playing second fiddle to the "Blob" by pretending to be supporting the democratic wishes of the majority, now the party faces the reality of its failure.

Sadly, Kemi is not representative of the Conservative Party at large, which consists of London-centric individuals dislocated from the public they purport to represent.

**Mike Kerr,**
*Hartlepool, Co Durham*

### Praying for Dame Sarah to clean up the Church

THE appointment of Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury may well be seen as a risk in what is still a patriarchal institution, but it's a risk worth taking ("Archbishop offers 'healing and hope for our fractured world'", January 29).

With no allegiances to an old-boy network and with a history of service in a compassionate profession, Archbishop Mullally, as a woman, offers a nurturing and approachable face to the Church.

After scandals and allegations of cover-ups and with diminishing congregations, perhaps she can make it a more family-friendly place to visit. Let's hope her tenure is a successful one, I wish her well.

**Diane Silva,**
*Bournemouth, Dorset*

### Shareholders come first as customers pay price

YEAR after year, utility companies put their rates up with the excuse of "infrastructure". What have they done with the money for infrastructure over the years ("Water bills to rise £33", January 29)? Do they really think we're stupid? They should stop paying high amounts of dividends to shareholders and put the infrastructure in place.

**Anne Jones,**
*Stalybridge, Cheshire*

### Hero bus driver sacked? Give that man a medal!

I CANNOT believe it ("Bus driver sacked after punching thief who stole woman's necklace", January 30). The driver, Mark Hehir, chased a thief and retrieved the necklace, the thief then reappeared and threw a punch at the driver who then defended himself, throwing a punch back which floored the thief.

The police said Hehir had acted legitimately. Metroline then told the driver that he was negligent in leaving the bus passengers unattended, which breached protocols. Hehir deserves a medal.

**Peter Rushton,**
*Chorley, Lancs*

## IF APPRENTICE CHUMPS ARE UK'S ELITE, I WEEP FOR OUR FUTURE

I PROMISED myself that I would not watch the 20th anniversary series of The Apprentice. I wish I'd carried through on that promise ("All fired up for your big shop", January 29).

If the 20 people taking part in the first episode really are (to quote from the promotional blurb) the UK's "entrepreneurial elite", it does not bode well for our country's future. It was cringeworthy from start to finish. This Thursday evening I will be doing something far more entertaining and worthwhile – watching paint dry.

**Bob Readman,**
*Sevenoaks, Kent*

## TODAY: Monday February 2, 2026

## ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
THE DELUGE

**73 years ago (1953)**
We reported a "national disaster" as cyclonic winds and torrential rain lashed Britain's east coast causing severe flooding.

A tidal surge came down the North Sea, flooding low lying lands in its path.

Canvey Island in Essex and parts of London were badly hit by the worst storms for more than 250 years.

Official figures said that 307 people lost their lives in the natural disaster, while more than 30,000 people were made homeless.

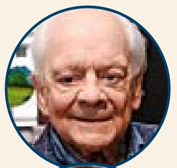
**54 years ago (1972)**
**A 30,000-strong crowd burned the British Embassy in Dublin while funerals were held in Derry for 11 of the 14 people killed by troops on Bloody Sunday.**

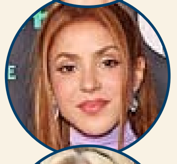
**Other buildings in the Irish capital with British connections were targeted and a British insurance firm's branch office in Dun Laoghaire was destroyed.**

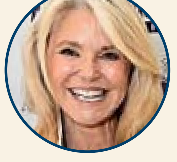
**36 years ago (1990)**
South Africa's President FW de Klerk began dismantling the country's apartheid laws, which enforced segregation on racial grounds.

He also lifted the 30-year ban on the African National Congress and promised to release its leader Nelson Mandela from prison.

## BIRTHDAYS







Only Fools And Horses' **Sir David Jason** is 86. He's a qualified helicopter pilot. Quantum Of Solace star **Gemma Arterton** is 40. She used to be in a punk band. Singer **Shakira** is 49. She has a net worth of £217million. Model **Christie Brinkley** is 72. She was the inspiration for Billy Joel's hit Uptown Girl.

**TODAY'S GIGGLE**
**I've just spend £100 on a belt that doesn't fit. Huge waist.**

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### ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Relationships are harmonious and warm. Indeed, interactions with the general public will be enjoyable and relaxed. Could a platonic relationship evolve into something more intimate? Your mood is such that you will notice the beauty in your surroundings. This newfound appreciation may inspire you to explore deeper connections.

For more call **0905 789 4171**

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### GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

You need to stop worrying over something that really doesn't matter in the bigger picture. If you put in a genuine effort to let it go now, it won't bother you. Having someone you can confide in will help you regain your perspective. Balance is key. Every cloud has a silver lining and clarity will soon find you. Embrace the calm that follows.

For more call **0905 789 4173**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

You're more aware than ever about how you feel about a certain person. You're upset and angry with them. Just be sure this is not to the extent you forget their true meaning in your life. Don't be the one who fails to appreciate what you have until it's gone. Take a moment to reflect on memories you cherish, they may hold the key to understanding.

For more call **0905 789 4175**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

There's a positive feel to your day. This makes it a good time for negotiations. Buying, selling and making deals all come under a favourable spotlight. It's also a good time for teaching, travelling or driving. If you've been thinking about taking driving lessons, book your first one. Embrace this momentum and watch how it opens up opportunities.

For more call **0905 789 4179**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You are more focused on business and your long-term goals than ever before. You have some great ideas about making money. You just need to persuade a partner to support these. Additionally, you have plans to improve your family life. These will take time to get underway but you know they will be successful. Trust your intuition.

For more call **0905 789 4172**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

Everyone seems eager for your company and friendship but think carefully about who you really want in your life. You find it easy to make a good impression on influential people, but is it worth your time to engage in superficial friendships? Who matters most? In the future, you will appreciate having a strong support system.

For more call **0905 789 4174**

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### VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You're starting to feel more positive about a job or health matter that has caused some tension of late. Everything related to your work will be going better than anticipated. A relative will receive some good news about a pet. This wave of optimism could inspire you to take a few bold steps. All in all, you have a lot to smile about.

For more call **0905 789 4176**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Your daily routine is quite hectic. You're brimming with bright ideas. It won't be easy to balance routine tasks, new ideas, events and other commitments but you will find a way. Just remember to plan some lighter, more enjoyable activities to allow yourself a break. Embrace the inspiration swirling around you; it could lead to something truly wonderful.

For more call **0905 789 4180**

(80p/min + network access charge)

**JILL SCOTT**
*Born on this day, 1987*

### LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Your career is important, but just as important are your relationships. Someone will be in touch and they want to mend a recent misunderstanding. Make some space in your schedule to spend some time together. Your willingness to embrace vulnerability will strengthen your bond, bringing warmth and understanding into your connection.

For more call **0905 789 4177**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

You are brimming with energy. There's a strong sense of excitement when you think of all that's being planned for the week ahead. You're anticipating meeting new people, taking a few brief journeys and engaging with others. Days will move at a faster pace due to your increased activities. This momentum will open doors to surprises and cherished connections.

For more call **0905 789 4181**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Make the most of any time you get with your family. Take a breather. You will receive support from others today, whether it's direct or indirect. A romantic connection could be exciting and friendships will have their fun moments later on. Embrace the laughter and warmth that surrounds you, as it will create cherished memories to carry forward.

For more call **0905 789 4178**

(80p/min + network access charge)

### PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Parts of your personal life are visible to the public. It will be an authority figure who has received information about you but not from you. Don't worry. They know you as being charming and competent and they will not be swayed by anyone trying to make trouble. Trust in your strengths, their perception of you is shaped by your effort and resilience.

For more call **0905 789 4182**

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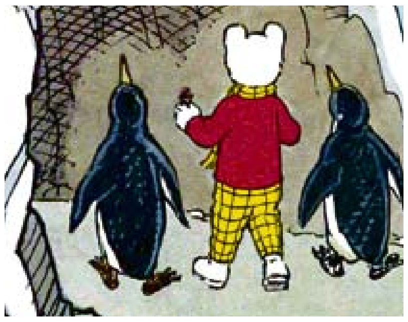
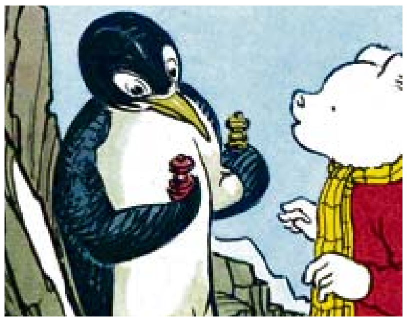
# NUTWOOD TALES

## RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.30



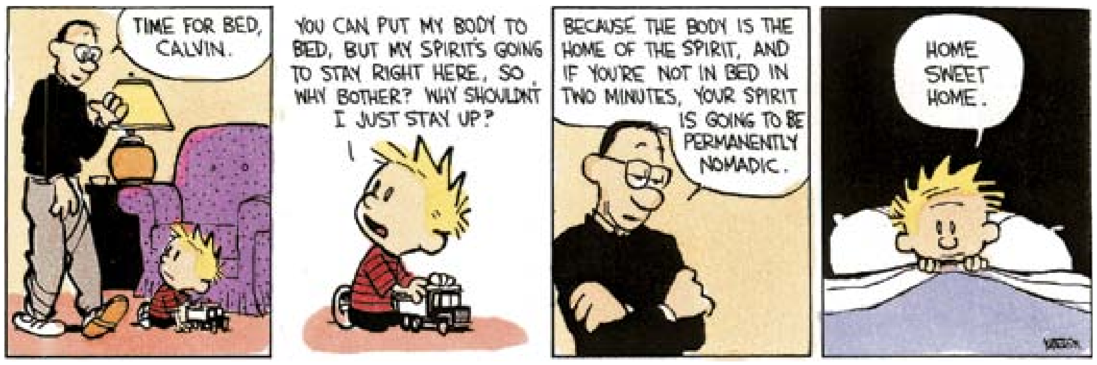
*Rupert, a guard on either side,*
*Takes in the visitors with pride.*

*"Magnificent!" the King exclaims.*
*"You have done well! Five royal names!"*



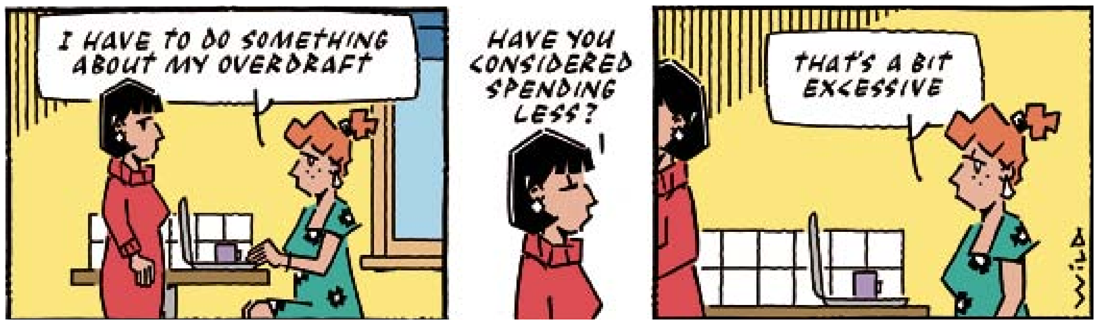
"Come in! Come in!" the sentry penguins squawk, and as if they were a guard of honour, they escort Rupert into the cave and halt smartly in front of the King's throne. Rupert bows and hands the two chessmen to the monarch. "Here, your Majesty," he says, "are two more royal visitors, the Black King and the White King from the game of chess!" The Penguin King examines the two chess pieces. "Thank you," he says. "This is a great day!"

## CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON



TIME FOR BED, CALVIN.
YOU CAN PUT MY BODY TO BED, BUT MY SPIRIT'S GOING TO STAY RIGHT HERE, SO WHY BOTHER? WHY SHOULDN'T I JUST STAY UP?
BECAUSE THE BODY IS THE HOME OF THE SPIRIT, AND IF YOU'RE NOT IN BED IN TWO MINUTES, YOUR SPIRIT IS GOING TO BE PERMANENTLY NOMADIC.
HOME SWEET HOME.

## FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD



I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY OVERDRAFT
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THAT'S A BIT EXCESSIVE
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Crafted with a solid wooden frame, foam-filled cushioning, and bonded leather upholstery, the Glendale delivers lasting support in a finish that blends seamlessly with your living space. Its wide seat and generously padded backrest provide ample room to relax, while the faux leather used on low-wear areas helps reduce weight without sacrificing durability.

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When it's time to unwind, the Glendale has you covered. Integrated massage points in the seat, lower and upper back help relieve everyday tension, while a warming lumbar heat function offers extra comfort, particularly soothing in colder months or after long days.

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**BRIGHT SPARK** Brighterdaysahead en route to winning the Irish Champion Hurdle for trainer Gordon Elliott (inset)

# DAY TO REMEMBER

## Star 2-1 for Champion after Dublin triumph

By **David Yates**

**BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD shocked favourite Lossiemouth as Leopardstown's Dublin Racing Festival belatedly got underway — and sent shockwaves through the Champion Hurdle betting.**

Punters made Lossiemouth the 4-6 market leader for the five-runner Timeless Sash Windows Irish Champion Hurdle after the Foxrock course, waterlogged on Saturday, passed an 8am inspection yesterday.

But Willie Mullins' grey couldn't get to grips with the Gordon Elliott-saddled star and Jack Kennedy galloped to a three-and-a-quarter-length victory. The outcome saw Brighterdaysahead cut from 8-1 to 2-1 joint-favourite for the Champion Hurdle on March 10 with William Hill, who pushed Lossiemouth out from 5-2 to 7-1.

"If she was good enough or not – to beat Lossiemouth – we were not sure," admitted a proud Elliott, earlier denied victory in the Tattersalls Ireland Novice Hurdle when Ballyfad was caught on the line by Talk The Talk.

"I thought, going to the second-last, 'Here comes Lossiemouth! Now we're in trouble!'But Jack seemed to be happy and he could let her roll on. Lossiemouth is a superstar – but our horse is a superstar, too."

The grey Lossiemouth is now the 5-4 favourite for the Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Mark Walsh, soon to depart the role of JP McManus's No 1 jockey in Ireland, rode a Grade One double in the green-and-gold livery aboard the Mullins pair Majborough and Kaid D'Authie.

Majborough, equipped with cheekpieces for the first time, banished his jumping frailties for a commanding all-the-way Ladbrokes Dublin Chase triumph. And Kaid D'Authie profited from Closutton stablemate and 30-100 hotpot Final Demand's indecisive jumping to land the Ladbrokes Novice Chase.

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# Mullins: Galopin may have fitness edge

By **David Yates**

**WILLIE MULLINS hopes a comeback defeat at Leopardstown over Christmas will have a positive effect on Galopin Des Champs in today's Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup.**

Victory for the 10-year-old would secure a place in racing's record books as Galopin Des Champs would become the first horse to win the three-mile Grade 1 four times in a row.

And Mullins, above, is confident his comeback third in the Savills Chase in Foxrock over Christmas will put a fitness edge on Galopin Des Champs, while also mindful Paul Townend's mount had a hard race behind the reopposing Affordale Fury.

"Sometimes a horse's second run back for the season, after having a tough race that first run, it can impact," said Mullins, whose Florida Pearl won the Irish Gold Cup four times, in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2004.

"But he seems fine at home and it's on a track he likes, so we're hoping for the best."

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## LEOPARDSTOWN RACINGTV

### 1.15 NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 1)

€90,000 (Class 1) 2m 6f 53yds (9 declared)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3/2-1511 | ● **DOCTOR STEINBERG (58)** W P Mullins 6 11-10 | **P Townend** | 138 |
| 2 | 122315 | **FRANKIE JOHN (24) (C)** D Hogan 6 11-10 | **D G Hogan** | 130 |
| 3 | 1113/22 | **JALON D'OUDAIRIES (35)** G Elliott 7 11-10 | **J C Gainford** | 130 |
| 4 | 521-B11 | **KAZANSKY (38)** G Elliott 6 11-10 | **J W Kennedy** | 133 |
| 5 | 1113 | **LOVE ME TENDER (37)** W P Mullins 5 11-10 | **M P Walsh** | ★139 |
| 6 | 22-4212 | **RISKAWAY (37)** G Elliott 6 11-10 | **D Gilligan** | 137 |
| 7 | 1-411 | **SANTO SOSPIR (25)** G Elliott 5 11-10 | **S Bowen** | 133 |
| 8 | 2F1611 | **TACKLETOMMYWOOWOO (92)** D Queally 6 11-10 | **S O'Keeffe** | 133 |
| 9 | 28-13 | **YESHIL (38)** H De Bromhead 6 11-10 | **J J Slevin** | 129 |

**SP FORECAST:** 13-8 Doctor Steinberg, 7-2 Love Me Tender, 5 Santo Sospir, Kazansky, 10 Jalon D'oudairies, 16 Riskaway, Tackletommywoowoo, 33 Others.

### 1.50 JUVENILE HURDLE (GRADE 1) 4YO

€90,000 (1) 2m (7)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | **BARBIZON (38) (D)** G Elliott 11-0 | **D Gilligan** | 139 |
| 2 | 32-1 | **BERTUTEA (38) (D)** W P Mullins 11-0 | **S O'Keeffe** | 130 |
| 3 | 1 | **IMMEDIATE EFFECT (33) (D)** G Elliott 11-0 | **S Bowen** | 127 |
| 4 | 1-21 | ● **NARCISO HAS (38) (C&D)** W P Mullins 11-0 | **M P Walsh** | ★154 |
| 5 | 3 | **NORTH SHORE (38)** G Cromwell 11-0 | **S W Flanagan** | 143 |
| 6 | 111 | **MANGE TOUT (64) (D)** G Elliott 10-7 | **J W Kennedy** | 150 |
| 7 | 2-51 | **SELMA DE VARY (89)** W P Mullins 10-7 | **P Townend** | – |

**TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: Nos. 6, 7.**

**SP FORECAST:** 8-11 Narciso Has, 5-2 Mange Tout, 8 Selma De Vary, 16 Bertutea, 25 Immediate Effect, Barbizon, North Shore.

### 2.25 HANDICAP HURDLE (0-150) (LISTED)

€60,000 (1) 3m 19yds (24)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 99-3112 | **STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT (11) (D)** G Elliott 8 11-12 | **Carl Millar(5)** | 150 |
| 2 | 01328-0 | **D ART D ART (275)** T Cooper 7 10-10 | **D King** | 149 |
| 3 | P/331P-0 | **DAILY PRESENT (36)** P Nolan 9 10-10 | **E Staples(5)** | 125 |
| 4 | 3C25P0 | **YEATS STAR (37)** G Elliott 7 10-10 | **J C Gainford** | 144 |
| 5 | 141-012 | **GRANN'S BOY (100)** H Rogers 6 10-9 | **D J O'Keeffe** | 151 |
| 6 | 23F0-97 | **MINELLA SIXO (19)** G Elliott 7 10-9 | **K Sexton** | 119 |
| 7 | 74-2413 | **SON OF ANARCHY (16)** G Elliott 7 10-9 | **J W Kennedy** | 150 |
| 8 | 653-745 | **WENDROCK (35) (C)** G Elliott 5 10-9 | **Josh Williamson(5)** | 144 |
| 9 | 27-6311 | **CHAMPAGNE KID (35) (C)** P E Collins 7 10-8 | **E Finegan(7)** | 149 |
| 10 | 3033PP | **TIMMY TUESDAY (58)** G Elliott 8 10-8 | **P Cleary(7)** | 134 |
| 11 | 85122 | ● **COUNTY FINAL (38)** E McNamara 6 10-7 | **M P Walsh** | 150 |
| 12 | 724101 | **DUKE SILVER (36) (C,D)** J P O'Brien 6 10-6 | **Hugh Horgan(5)** | 147 |
| 13 | 43-7ULL | **I LOVE MY BAIE (58)** S Crawford 8 10-6 | **J J Slevin** | 148 |
| 14 | 4-1L240 | **SYSKO (36)** W P Mullins 6 10-6 | **D Mullins** | 149 |
| 15 | 6-02140 | **ECLIPSE CHASER (36)** W P Mullins 6 10-4 | **S O'Keeffe** | 145 |
| 16 | 38-3323 | **HE CAN'T DANCE (16)** G Elliott 6 10-4 | **D Gilligan** | 150 |
| 17 | 1F-3533 | **ROAD TO HOME (47)** W P Mullins 7 10-3 | **B Hayes** | 139 |
| 18 | 313134 | **BARRA RUA (38)** E Mullins 6 10-0 | **S Bowen** | 149 |
| 19 | 00-22L9 | **LITTLEFOOT (37)** M Molloy 8 10-0 | **P M O'Brien(5)** | ★152 |
| 20 | 13-8452 | **DIPPEDINMOONLIGHT (19)** E Mullins 6 10-0 | **M Kenneally(7)** | 149 |
| 21 | F22-0P0 | **HARTUR D'ARC (37)** J McConnell 9 10-0 | **S D Torrens** | 85 |
| 22 | 5L8453 | **SAINT LE FORT (35)** P Fenton 6 10-0 | **Niall Moore(5)** | 148 |
| 23 | 8P-0557 | **SAVANTE (36)** Colm Murphy 7 10-0 | **C M Hogan(7)** | 147 |
| 24 | 111413 | **SMALL TOWN HERO (36) (D)** Ian Donoghue 6 10-0 | **C Stone-Walsh** | 142 |

**BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 24 VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 11, 15, 16, 23, 24 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 9, 10, 16, 23.**

**SP FORECAST:** 4 County Final, 7 Son Of Anarchy, 8 Champagne Kid, Dippedinmoonlight, 10 He Can't Dance, 12 Saint Le Fort, Wendrock, 16 Others.

### THE SCOUT

1.15 Doctor Steinberg
1.50 Narciso Has
2.25 County Final
2.55 Romeo Coolio
3.30 Galopin Des Champs
4.05 Western Diego
4.40 It's Only A Game

### 2.55 GOFFS IRISH ARKLE NOVICE CHASE (GRD 1)

€90,000 (1) 2m 1f (3)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7-P0121 | **DOWNMEXICOWAY (86) (D)** H De Bromhead 7 11-12 | **D J O'Keeffe** | 146 |
| 2 | 132-111 | ● **ROMEO COOLIO (38) (C&D)** G Elliott 7 11-12 | **J W Kennedy** | ★163 |
| 3 | 121-321 | **KARGESE (37) (C&D)** W P Mullins 6 11-5 | **P Townend** | 153 |

**HOOD: No. 3.**

**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 2, 3.**

**SP FORECAST:** 1-2 Romeo Coolio, 7-4 Kargese, 20 Downmexicoway.

### 3.30 PADDY POWER IRISH GOLD CUP (GRADE 1)

€142,500 (1) 3m 100yds (13)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5/2-2211 | **AFFORDALE FURY (36) (C&D)** N Meade 8 11-10 | **D Meyler** | 171 |
| 2 | 13-12S5 | **CHAMP KIELY (32)** W P Mullins 10 11-10 | **J J Slevin** | 165 |
| 3 | 231-L26 | **FACT TO FILE (38) (C,D)** W P Mullins 9 11-10 | **M P Walsh** | 178 |
| 4 | 2362-12 | **FIREFOX (44)** G Elliott 8 11-10 | **S Bowen** | 158 |
| 5 | 2311-13 | **GAELIC WARRIOR (38)** W P Mullins 8 11-10 | **Mr P W Mullins** | 176 |
| 6 | 3112-13 | ● **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (36) (C&D)** W P Mullins 10 11-10 | **P Townend** | 179 |
| 7 | 2L35-84 | **GRANGECLARE WEST (36) (C&D)** W P Mullins 10 11-10 | **B Hayes** | 168 |
| 8 | 1/P82-L2 | **I AM MAXIMUS (36)** W P Mullins 10 11-10 | **J W Kennedy** | 173 |
| 9 | L541-5L | **INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN (36)** G Cromwell 8 11-10 | **K M Donoghue** | ★181 |
| 10 | 111-F77 | **LECKY WATSON (36) (D)** W P Mullins 8 11-10 | **S O'Keeffe** | 162 |
| 11 | 254-305 | **MONTY'S STAR (36) (D)** H De Bromhead 9 11-10 | **D J O'Keeffe** | 163 |
| 12 | L22-338 | **STELLAR STORY (36) (D)** G Elliott 9 11-10 | **D Gilligan** | 158 |
| 13 | 5111-11 | **SPINDLEBERRY (35)** W P Mullins 8 11-3 | **D Mullins** | 167 |

**BLINKERS: No. 12 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 9, 12 HOOD: No. 5.**

**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-4 Galopin Des Champs, 4 Gaelic Warrior, 7 Spindleberry, 8 I Am Maximus, Affordale Fury, Fact To File, 12 Inothewayurthinkin, 20 Others.

### 4.05 HANDICAP CHASE (0-150) (LISTED)

€60,000 (1) 2m 1f (14)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2/13-FL5 | **INTHEPOCKET (19)** H De Bromhead 9 11-12 | **M P Walsh** | 135 |
| 2 | 1P-2312 | **JACOB'S LADDER (22)** G Elliott 7 11-8 | **J W Kennedy** | ★154 |
| 3 | 032141 | **ADDRAGOOLE (38) (C&D)** G Cromwell 7 11-7 | **E Staples(5)** | 148 |
| 4 | 5-23128 | **BALLYSAX HANK (37)** G Cromwell 7 11-4 | **K M Donoghue** | 147 |
| 5 | 625-831 | ● **WESTERN DIEGO (19) (D)** W P Mullins 9 11-3 | **B Hayes** | 150 |
| 6 | PP2318 | **DRUMGILL (19) (D)** J P Ryan 7 11-1 | **M Kenneally(7)** | 148 |
| 7 | 255-022 | **JASKO DES DAMES (101) (D)** H De Bromhead 7 10-13 | **D J O'Keeffe** | 149 |
| 8 | 051L-P4 | **GOLDEN JOY (24) (C&D)** G Elliott 7 10-9 | **D Gilligan** | 151 |
| 9 | F-45892 | **MORE COKO (19)** W P Mullins 6 10-9 | **Sean Cleary-Farrell(7)** | 150 |
| 10 | 110-P60 | **AN PEANN DEARG (38) (C&D)** P Nolan 9 10-7 | **S O'Keeffe** | 152 |
| 11 | 913431 | **BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY (50)** M Hassett 8 10-6 | **Liam McKenna(5)** | 148 |
| 12 | 42-2345 | **DONT GO YET (38) (D)** E Cawley 12 10-2 | **P K Donovan(3)** | 153 |
| 13 | 17-P3P1 | **MILAN FORTH (30)** S Cavanagh 7 10-0 | **J C Gainford** | 147 |
| 14 | 223P89 | **GRANGE WALK (15) (C&D)** J P Ryan 11 10-0 | **D King** | 142 |

**BLINKERS: No. 14 VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 12 HOOD: Nos. 5, 9.**

**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14.**

**SP FORECAST:** 4 Jacob's Ladder, 5 Western Diego, 6 Jasko Des Dames, 7 Ballysax Hank, More Coko, 8 Addragoole, Battle Of Ridgeway, 12 Milan Forth, 14 Others.

### 4.40 (C & G) I.N.H. FLAT RACE (GRADE 2)

€60,000 (1) 2m (7)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | **BROADWAY TED (63) (D)** G Elliott 5 11-10 | **Mr B O'Neill** | 99 |
| 2 | 1 | **CHARISMATIC KID (58) (D)** G Elliott 5 11-10 | **Mr H C Swan** | 108 |
| 3 | 313-23 | **GENEROUS RISK (37)** G Elliott 6 11-10 | **Mr P W Mullins** | 112 |
| 4 | 21 | ● **IT'S ONLY A GAME (71)** M Brassil 5 11-10 | **Mr J L Gleeson** | 108 |
| 5 | 274-14 | **MOSSY WAY (35) (D)** E Buckley 6 11-10 | **Mr Mr F R Buckley** | ★114 |
| 6 | 3-21 | **ROJUCO MAC (36)** C Byrnes 6 11-10 | **Mr D O'Connor** | 110 |
| 7 | 1-41 | **WITH NOLIMIT (32) (D)** G Elliott 5 11-10 | **Mr D G Lavery** | 99 |

**TONGUE STRAP: No. 4.**

**SP FORECAST:** 13-8 It's Only A Game, 7-4 Charismatic Kid, 5 Rojuco Mac, 12 Generous Risk, 14 Broadway Ted, 16 Mossy Way, 25 With Nolimit.

**TRACK FACTS: GOING:** Heavy. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Paul Townend 36% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** W P Mullins 17% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.50 Selma De Vary (hood), 2.25 Minella Sixo (visor), Yeats Star (cheek pieces), 3.30 Stellar Story (blinkers, tongue strap), Firefox (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.15 Jalon D'oudairies, Riskaway. 2.25 He Can't Dance, Staffordshire Knot. 3.30 Champ Kiely, Firefox, Gaelic Warrior, Galopin Des Champs. 4.05 Ballysax Hank(hcp ch), Jasko Des Dames(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: D Art D Art** (2.25) Ireland; **Mossy Way** (4.40) 70 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.50 **Selma De Vary** from E Clayeux in France to W P Mullins. 4.40 **Charismatic Kid** from Colm Ryan in Ireland to G Elliott.

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WON 10-3 (Southwell)
THE DOYEN CHIEF
WON 5-4 (Kempton)
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## WOLVERHAMPTON SSR

### THE SCOUT

5.00 Educate
5.30 Leonetto
6.00 Wee Mary
6.30 FRANCESI
7.00 Corundum
7.30 FRANCESCO BARACCA (nb)
8.00 Frankali

### 5.00 MIDNITE AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP
£2,980 (Class 6)1m 4f 51yds (12 declared)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (1) | 22247-L | ● **EDUCATE (30) (C&D)** M Hammond 5 11-2 | **Miss Becky Smith** | 52 |
| 2 | (8) | 3909L-8 | **SHAHBAZ (30) (D)** A Watson 6 11-2 | **Miss B Hampson** | 44 |
| 3 | (12) | 03627-4 | **KARTHALA (13)** J Candlish 4 11-1 | **Mr J Neild** | 52 |
| 4 | (10) | 5175L0- | **PHAEDRA (47) (D)** R Hannon 4 10-13 | **Mr Lucas Murphy(5)** | 49 |
| 5 | (9) | 33/LLL-L | **GOLDEN MOVE (17) (D)** C Kellett 6 10-12 | **Mr Liam McGaffin(5)** | 45 |
| 6 | (4) | 0L2603/ | **BLUENOSE BELLE (J70)** R Phillips 8 10-11 | **Mr Simon Walker** | – |
| 7 | (2) | 486L-6 | **THE CORPORATE GUY (16)** Jack Jones 4 10-10 | **Mr E Cagney** | ★58 |
| 8 | (3) | 038-826 | **PRIDE OF NEPAL (9) (D)** A Carroll 8 10-7 | **Miss S Bowen** | 51 |
| 9 | (5) | 6577-34 | **TAKE THE BOAT (26)** G Nicholls 4 10-6 | **Harry Brown(7)** | 51 |
| 10 | (6) | 0/L0788- | **NEKAZARI (37)** G Boughey 4 10-3 | **Mr James Hills(7)** | 44 |
| 11 | (7) | 237326- | **FIFTYSHADESARESDEV (210) (F)** M Hammond 7 10-2 | **Mr F Foster(7)** | 53 |
| 12 | (11) | 7554-L9 | **BONDI MAN (14)** Sarah Hollinshead 7 9-11 | **Mr C Hillhouse(5)** | 49 |

**BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8, 10, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 10, 11, 12.**

**SP FORECAST:** 5-2 Take The Boat, 4 Fiftyshadesaresdev, 6 Nekazari, 7 Educate, 8 Pride Of Nepal, Bluenose Belle, 14 Karthala, 20 Shahbaz, The Corporate Guy, 25 Others.

**2025: No corresponding meeting.**

### 5.30 MIDNITE NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE)
£5,400 (4) 6f 20yds (5)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (1) | 6-0 | **AVALON MILL MEHMAS (20)** N Kent 4 9-11 | **D Costello** | 34 |
| 2 | (5) | L-8 | **ELASHGAR (11)** K Frost 3 9-1 | **A Voikhansky** | 43 |
| 3 | (3) | 53- | **HORACE WALLACE (56)** R Fahey 3 9-1 | **C Hardie** | 59 |
| 4 | (2) | 72-22 | ● **LEONETTO (12)** Harry Charlton 3 9-1 | **C Rodriguez** | ★71 |
| 5 | (4) | L | **Y Y STAR (11)** P Evans 3 9-1 | **Laura Coughlan(3)** | 16 |

**SP FORECAST:** 1-3 Leonetto, 9-2 Horace Wallace, 8 Y Y Star, 20 Elashgar, 66 Avalon Mill Mehmas.

### 6.00 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 5f 21yds (9)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (4) | 64-651L | **FOREST GUNNER (6) (D)** P Evans 5 9-9 | **Laura Coughlan(3)** | 60 |
| 2 | (8) | L793-34 | **SOME NIGHTMARE (6) (C,D)** J G O'Shea 9 9-9 | **W Carson** | 62 |
| 3 | (6) | L44-443 | **WHAT WHAT WHAT (22) (D)** M & D Easterby 4 9-8 | **L Chalkley(7)** | 61 |
| 4 | (3) | 60L-441 | ● **WEE MARY (9) (D) (T)** J Goldie 4 9-6 | **P Mulrennan** | 60 |
| 5 | (2) | 7680-41 | **FLICKA'S GIRL (18) (C&D)** M Attwater 4 9-6 | **P Bradley** | 61 |
| 6 | (9) | 42-2222 | **COLORS OF FREEDOM (14) (C&D)** Joe Ponting 6 9-4 | **L Morris** | ★64 |
| 7 | (5) | 24522-5 | **KIPP KELLY (29)** D Shaw 5 9-3 | **L Edmunds** | 63 |
| 8 | (1) | L2L85-8 | **MY GENGHIS (25) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-2 | **M Ghiani** | 60 |
| 9 | (7) | 033876- | **KENTO (91) (C&D)** A Carroll 5 9-1 | **Jack Doughty** | 60 |

**VISOR: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 8, 9 HOOD: No. 1.**

**SP FORECAST:** 3 Colors Of Freedom, 4 Wee Mary, 9-2 Flicka's Girl, 6 What What What, 8 Some Nightmare, 10 Kipp Kelly, 12 Forest Gunner, 14 My Genghis, Kento.

### 6.30 BET 10 GET 40 WITH BETMGM HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 142yds (12)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 2134-52 | **ERNIE'S VALENTINE (16) (C&D,F)** R Burdon 7 9-9 | **P Edwards(7)** | 78 |
| 2 | (6) | 314-111 | **LATIN (17) (C&D) (S)** James Owen 5 9-8 | **P Bradley** | 78 |
| 3 | (9) | 133-112 | ● **FRANCESI (17)** A Carroll 7 9-7 | **Myla Coppins(7)** | 78 |
| 4 | (1) | 052-8 | **MAO SHANG WONG (23)** D O'Meara 4 9-7 | **D Nolan** | 80 |
| 5 | (7) | 0441-88 | **FIRST GREYED (17) (C&D)** T Faulkner 8 9-6 | **R Havlin** | 78 |
| 6 | (3) | 521-351 | **MR NUGGET (10) (C&D)** D M Simcock 5 9-6 | **R Scott** | 77 |
| 7 | (12) | 615039- | **YOUARENOTFORGIVEN (34) (C&D)** A Carroll 8 9-5 | **Jack Doughty** | 79 |
| 8 | (10) | 221837- | **TORALOU (42)** M Loughnane 5 9-5 | **J Leavy** | 78 |
| 9 | (4) | 126-763 | **LESSAY (7) (C)** P Morris 5 9-4 | **P Mulrennan** | 77 |
| 10 | (11) | 736L4-4 | **BEAMING LIGHT (16)** D Loughnane 6 9-3 | **L Edmunds** | 75 |
| 11 | (2) | 00477-7 | **IMPLIED VOLATILITY (17)** J Candlish 4 8-10 | **D Keenan** | ★81 |
| 12 | (8) | 668/L0-4 | **MOORETOWN LAD (27) (D)** A Wintle 6 8-9 | **Grace McEntee** | 68 |

**VISOR: Nos. 2, 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7 EYE COVERS: No. 10.**

**SP FORECAST:** 3 Latin, 9-2 Ernie's Valentine, 5 Mr Nugget, 7 Francesi, 8 Lessay, 10 Beaming Light, 12 Youarenotforgiven, 14 Mao Shang Wong, 16 Others.

### 7.00 MIDNITE: BUILT FOR 2026 NOT 2006 HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 1f 104yds (10)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (3) | 13353-3 | **STIPULATION (17) (C&D)** M Loughnane 5 9-9 | **L Morris** | 73 |
| 2 | (5) | 98535-L | **SPEC OF LIGHT (16)** D Loughnane 4 9-6 | **R Scott** | 74 |
| 3 | (6) | 87475-2 | ● **CORUNDUM (27)** L Wadham 5 9-6 | **R Hornby** | ★76 |
| 4 | (10) | 146-613 | **MAGIC RUNNER (10) (C&D)** R Carr 4 9-5 | **Taryn Langley(5)** | 73 |
| 5 | (2) | 2235-45 | **POETIC FORCE (18) (C&D)** A Carroll 12 9-5 | **Myla Coppins(7)** | 69 |
| 6 | (9) | 552224- | **POWERFUL RESPONSE (35)** G Harker 6 9-5 | **S B Kirrane** | 75 |
| 7 | (8) | 7841-74 | **LAW SUPREME (10) (C&D)** I Williams 7 9-5 | **R Kavanagh(5)** | 73 |
| 8 | (1) | 7/00046- | **TIGER BEETLE (44) (C&D)** T Faulkner 8 9-4 | **R Havlin** | 63 |
| 9 | (7) | 41332-3 | **THE DARK BARON (17) (C&D)** Kathy Turner 4 9-3 | **Laura Coughlan(3)** | 74 |
| 10 | (4) | LL9/24L- | **LAUNCESTON (J18)** Joe Ponting 4 8-9 | **N Currie** | 74 |

**BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 7.**

**SP FORECAST:** 4 Stipulation, 9-2 Magic Runner, 5 Corundum, Powerful Response, 6 Law Supreme, 8 The Dark Baron, 12 Spec Of Light, 14 Poetic Force, 20 Others.

### 7.30 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 2m 120yds (9)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (9) | L5/54LL- | **FLEURMAN (86) (C&D)** P Morris 8 10-0 | **P Bradley** | ★81 |
| 2 | (5) | 0L1391- | ● **FRANCESCO BARACCA (34) (C&D,F)** E J-Houghton 5 9-13 | **J Nicholls(5)** | 78 |
| 3 | (8) | 112215- | **MARKET HOUSE (51) (F)** James Owen 6 9-11 | **S D Bowen** | 75 |
| 4 | (4) | 715L/11- | **EASTER ICON (J45) (C&D)** G Brown 7 9-7 | **G Bass** | 75 |
| 5 | (6) | 04L766- | **CIVIL LAW (34) (C)** R Teal 9 9-7 | **L Edmunds** | 76 |
| 6 | (3) | 31495L- | **GREEN TEAM (56) (C)** I Williams 7 9-6 | **E Greatrex** | 75 |
| 7 | (7) | 595157/ | **EAST END GIRL (J44)** A Ralph 9 9-6 | **C Hardie** | – |
| 8 | (2) | 75-9 | **KING'S CRUISER (14)** M Botti 4 8-11 | **M Ghiani** | 69 |
| 9 | (1) | 341319- | **SNEAKY BLINDER (49) (C&D)** R Stephens 5 8-9 | **L Morris** | 77 |

**TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 8, 9.**

**SP FORECAST:** 2 Francesco Baracca, 4 Market House, 9-2 Easter Icon, 7 East End Girl, 8 King's Cruiser, 14 Sneaky Blinder, Civil Law, 16 Green Team, 25 Fleurman.

### 8.00 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (6) 7f 36yds (12)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 542577- | **SHE'S CRAFTY (34)** Jack Morland 9-9 | **Harry Vigors(7)** | ★64 |
| 2 | (6) | L726-22 | **ATHENIAN SPIRIT (19) (F)** W Knight 9-9 | **L Morris** | 62 |
| 3 | (10) | 686-3 | ● **FRANKALI (26)** Ollie Sangster 9-8 | **S James** | 59 |
| 4 | (2) | 760L7-6 | **KANES A LOTT (26)** S C Williams 9-7 | **M Ghiani** | 55 |
| 5 | (7) | L87L- | **CRIMSON RAMBLER (112)** G Scott 9-6 | **C Shepherd** | 55 |
| 6 | (11) | 99-74 | **FICKLE MCSELFISH (11)** T Coyle & K Wood 9-5 | **D Nolan** | 55 |
| 7 | (8) | 8867-72 | **ELECTROCUTION (14)** C Banham 9-5 | **J Haynes** | 60 |
| 8 | (4) | 9768-L | **SPIRIT OF MARA (21)** R Fahey 9-5 | **C Hardie** | 51 |
| 9 | (9) | LLL-4 | **EXHIBITION MATCH (14)** Ollie Sangster 9-4 | **N Currie** | 56 |
| 10 | (3) | 5155-56 | **MISS AYALA (14) (D)** M Usher 9-2 | **G Bass** | 56 |
| 11 | (12) | L87-55 | **EZERA (10)** Lemos Souza 9-0 | **G Wood** | 55 |
| 12 | (1) | 0606-43 | **BLUE MOUNTAINS (14)** M Botti 9-0 | **J Nicholls(5)** | 56 |

**BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 11 VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-2 Athenian Spirit, 5 Electrocution, 6 Blue Mountains, 7 Kanes A Lott, 8 Frankali, Exhibition Match, 10 Miss Ayala, 12 Crimson Rambler, 16 Others.

**TRACK FACTS: GOING:** Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Luke Morris 12% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Carroll 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.00 Golden Move (blinkers), 7.00 Spec Of Light (blinkers), 8.00 Crimson Rambler (blinkers), Kanes A Lott (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 6.00 Colors Of Freedom(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Wee Mary** (6.00) 285 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.00 **Fiftyshadesaresdev** from M & D Easterby to M Hammond. 7.00 **Launceston** from Sir M Prescott to Joe Ponting.

## HOOF PRINTS

**MA SHANTOU will head straight to the Stayers' Hurdle in a bid to emulate the stable's former long-distance star Paisley Park.**

**The seven-year-old, trained by Emma Lavelle, has won three times at Cheltenham in a run that culminated with a seven-length success in the Cleeve Hurdle on Festival Trials day.**

**"He's been fresh and well since Cheltenham, he's back cantering in his routine and he's absolutely bouncing," said Lavelle.**

**"It was always going to be the race that decided which route he went, were we going to the Pertemps or were we going to try to have a crack at the Stayers. We will now go straight there."**

## KEMPTON RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

### THE SCOUT

12.52 Onefournine
1.27 Il Va De Soi
2.02 Religous Cross
2.35 Wild Goose
3.07 Petit Tonnerre
3.42 Grand Conqueror
4.17 Louxor De Grugy

### 12.52 COPYBET MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m (17 declared)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 25-304 | **AJ'S DIAMOND (22)** C Gordon 6 11-4 | **F Gordon** | 100 |
| 2 | 2-2882 | **APPLESHAW (53)** H Fry 7 11-4 | **B Carver** | 107 |
| 3 | L0 | **APPROACHING STORM (49)** N Gifford 5 11-4 | **J M Davies** | – |
| 4 | 3-1L96 | **CONNIES HILL (14)** Nick Scholfield 6 11-4 | **B R Jones** | 96 |
| 5 | 678 | **FOUR DECADES (16)** T Ellis 5 11-4 | **F Lambert(3)** | 88 |
| 6 | 328- | **GEORGIA'S CHARM (472)** F O'Brien 6 11-4 | **J J Burke** | – |
| 7 | 29-34 | **JEM'S LILLY (42)** Harry Derham 6 11-4 | **Paul O'Brien** | 115 |
| 8 | 14L-8 | **KAPABILITY (88)** A Honeyball 6 11-4 | **R Dingle** | 98 |
| 9 | 335-115 | **LADY MAGIC (21)** T Symonds 5 11-4 | **N Fox(5)** | 108 |
| 10 | P-32L36 | **MIRACLES DO HAPPEN (42)** T Lacey 5 11-4 | **C Iles(5)** | 104 |
| 11 | 1-22 | ● **ONEFOURNINE (22)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-4 | **Jonjo O'Neill Jr** | ★116 |
| 12 | 1L | **OUR PEGGY (34)** J Tizzard 5 11-4 | **B J Powell** | 80 |
| 13 | 4151-4P | **QUEENOFTHEJUKEBOX (50)** Noel Williams 6 11-4 | **G Sheehan** | 96 |
| 14 | 212 | **SEVARANA (43) (F)** R Bandey 6 11-4 | **H Bannister** | 109 |
| 15 | 3-6L | **SHEEZER DANCER (65)** D Skelton 5 11-4 | **H Skelton** | 114 |
| 16 | | **CECILIA STAR (F117)** L Wadham 4 10-6 | **C Gethings** | – |
| 17 | P | **I'LL GIVE IT A GO (25)** I Williams 4 10-6 | **L Harrison** | – |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 8, 13, 17 HOOD: Nos. 1, 2, 10, 12, 14.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 9.**

**SP FORECAST:** 4 Onefournine, 9-2 Appleshaw, 6 Jem's Lilly, 15-2 Sevarana, Lady Magic, 8 Sheezer Dancer, 12 Miracles Do Happen, 16 Aj's Diamond, Cecilia Star, Queenofthejukebox, 20 Others.

### 1.27 COPYBET NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£5,809 (4) 3m (10)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6-64343 | **SAINT ANAPOLINO (24)** P Hobbs & J White 7 12-2 | **Mr Jack Stenhouse(7)** | 120 |
| 2 | 52L4-3F | ● **IL VA DE SOI (33)** Harry Derham 8 11-13 | **A Stevens(3)** | 107 |
| 3 | 3224-55 | **MAGICAL KING (35)** S Edmunds 7 11-13 | **C Hammond** | 110 |
| 4 | 2/2234-7 | **DON'T TELL SU (47)** N Henderson 8 11-11 | **N De Boinville** | 104 |
| 5 | 1P2-623 | **AVIATION (17)** L Wadham 7 11-10 | **T Cannon** | 123 |
| 6 | 85/2111- | **HAWAII DU MESTIVEL (458)** N Mulholland 9 11-6 | **C O'Farrell** | – |
| 7 | 431/P1-P | **I PLAY COUNTY (22)** T Lawes 7 11-4 | **H Bannister** | – |
| 8 | 541-1L3 | **IGNORE THE DOOR (32)** Harry Derham 6 11-3 | **Paul O'Brien** | – |
| 9 | P-12P24 | **MOONSHINE MAN (36) (F)** Miss H Knight 7 11-1 | **B J Powell** | ★124 |
| 10 | 612-F44 | **YOUDECIDE (33)** B Pauling 6 10-5 | **B R Jones** | 119 |

**BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 10.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 2, 7, 3, 1.**

**SP FORECAST:** 4 Aviation, 5 Hawaii Du Mestivel, 13-2 Youdecide, Saint Anapolino, 7 Moonshine Man, 15-2 Ignore The Door, 8 Il Va De Soi, 10 Don't Tell Su, 12 Others.

### 2.02 COPYBET NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 2m 5f (17)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1-21 | ● **RELIGOUS CROSS (34)** N Mulholland 6 11-12 | **C O'Farrell** | 115 |
| 2 | 23-21 | **STEP AHEAD (32)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 6 11-12 | **C Gethings** | 122 |
| 3 | 85-1 | **SUNSET BOULEVARD (247)** V Williams 6 11-12 | **C Deutsch** | 103 |
| 4 | PL | **BETGOODWIN (16)** C Gordon 7 11-5 | **F Gordon** | 83 |
| 5 | F-2F37L | **COUMEENOOLE (16)** D Skelton 7 11-5 | **H Skelton** | 123 |
| 6 | P26/PP | **FURY LAD (45)** R Rowe 7 11-5 | **T Cannon** | – |
| 7 | F/23-L4 | **HILLWALK (37)** N Mulholland 6 11-5 | **D Johnston** | 106 |
| 8 | 63L-UL | **JAJA JIMMY (77)** Miss J Davis 6 11-5 | **G Sheehan** | 93 |
| 9 | 5-8 | **KISS GOLD (34)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-5 | **Sean Houlihan** | 84 |
| 10 | L3-60 | **MONANSUNU (22)** A Irvine 6 11-5 | **C Quinn** | 78 |
| 11 | P/1-3 | **NEON DREAM (32)** A King 6 11-5 | **T Bellamy** | ★125 |
| 12 | 66 | **PADRE ARTHUR (47)** N Henderson 5 11-5 | **N De Boinville** | 100 |
| 13 | 35-36 | **PETER'S LAST DEAL (21)** T Symonds 5 11-5 | **N Fox(5)** | 101 |
| 14 | 85-7L | **POP'S FOLLY (17)** G Nicholls 6 11-5 | **F Lambert(3)** | 100 |
| 15 | 2-33L | **RECKLESS SPENDING (51) (F)** N Henderson 6 11-5 | **J Bowen** | 124 |
| 16 | 2-9L | **TOM DESJY (25)** W Greatrex 6 11-5 | **H Bannister** | 80 |
| 17 | P8 | **WHAT A DRAGON (18)** R Walford 5 11-5 | **H Kimber** | 79 |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 9.**

**SP FORECAST:** 11-4 Reckless Spending, 4 Step Ahead, 9-2 Religous Cross, 5 Neon Dream, 6 Coumeenoole, 10 Sunset Boulevard, 12 Peter's Last Deal, 16 Padre Arthur, 25 Others.

### 2.35 COPYBET HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 2m (11)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2-12411 | **ICE IN THE VEINS (84) (C&D)** D Skelton 6 12-0 | **H Skelton** | 112 |
| 2 | 16-36 | **FILIBUSTERING (65) (D)** Harry Derham 5 11-12 | **Paul O'Brien** | 114 |
| 3 | 17-2135 | **FRONTIER PRINCE (42) (D)** F O'Brien 5 11-12 | **J J Burke** | ★121 |
| 4 | 3L2-U51 | ● **WILD GOOSE (61) (D)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 6 11-9 | **T Bellamy** | 118 |
| 5 | 061-PLP | **TRADECRAFT (50) (D)** N Henderson 7 11-9 | **N De Boinville** | 114 |
| 6 | 8/31- | **GOOLOOGONG (F250)** G Baker 6 11-8 | **T Cannon** | – |
| 7 | P1-2141 | **SOLEIL D'ARIZONA (132) (D)** D Skelton 6 11-7 | **T Durrell** | 110 |
| 8 | 512-657 | **SAGE GREEN (48) (D)** S Hosie 6 11-2 | **J Best** | 119 |
| 9 | FF/7-724 | **SWINGING LONDON (53) (D)** J Mackie 8 10-13 | **B R Jones** | 120 |
| 10 | 412232 | **GRAECIA (35) (D)** C Longsdon 5 10-9 | **D McConville(7)** | 119 |
| 11 | 70-4488 | **TYSON (15)** D Skelton 6 10-8 | **L Harrison** | 118 |

**BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 CHEEK PIECES: No. 9 HOOD: Nos. 1, 7, 8, 10.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 9, 5.**

**SP FORECAST:** 3 Ice In The Veins, 7-2 Wild Goose, 5 Soleil D'arizona, 8 Gooloogong, Graecia, 10 Frontier Prince, Filibustering, 16 Swinging London, Sage Green, 20 Others.

### 3.07 COPYBET HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£11,618 (3) 2m 4f 110yds (7)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 19/842-5 | **MADARA (37)** D Skelton 7 12-0 | **H Skelton** | 122 |
| 2 | 4L142L | **ARCLIGHT (35) (C,D,F)** N Henderson 7 11-10 | **J Bowen** | 140 |
| 3 | 312-136 | **ISSAM (16)** T Symonds 8 11-10 | **G Sheehan** | 143 |
| 4 | 61B9-1L | ● **PETIT TONNERRE (93)** J & A O'Neill 8 11-10 | **Jonjo O'Neill Jr** | 138 |
| 5 | 21-2P2P | **SCARFACE (16) (D)** J Tizzard 9 11-9 | **B J Powell** | ★144 |
| 6 | 03-934F | **RIGHTSOTOM (35)** J Tizzard 7 11-1 | **T Bellamy** | 142 |
| 7 | 4P11-P3 | **YES INDEED (113)** M Keighley 9 10-13 | **J J Burke** | 142 |

**BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 6.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 1, 4, 5, 7.**

**SP FORECAST:** 2 Madara, 10-3 Arclight, 11-2 Rightsotom, 7 Issam, 8 Petit Tonnerre, Scarface, 12 Yes Indeed.

### 3.42 COPYBET HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 2m 5f (12)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0/5PP2-L | **GEEZER ROCKSTAR (77)** H Fry 7 12-2 | **B Carver** | 110 |
| 2 | 4-223F0 | **SPITALFIELD (19)** J & A O'Neill 8 11-12 | **Jonjo O'Neill Jr** | 114 |
| 3 | 36/4-72 | **THE TWO HARRYS (63) (S)** Harry Derham 7 11-12 | **Paul O'Brien** | 105 |
| 4 | 12-L76 | **WALK TALL (32)** J Tizzard 6 11-11 | **B J Powell** | 106 |
| 5 | F90511 | ● **GRAND CONQUEROR (38) (D)** N Mulholland 5 11-10 | **C O'Farrell** | 109 |
| 6 | 33-85L4 | **GUCHEN (34)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 6 11-10 | **Aamilah Aswat(10)** | 111 |
| 7 | 1F/4L-0 | **PEKING OPERA (45)** G & J Moore 6 11-9 | **C Quinn** | 73 |
| 8 | 3/22-926 | **ISLAND RUN (19)** P Hobbs & J White 9 11-8 | **Sean Houlihan** | 110 |
| 9 | L32-U53 | **WASHINGTON SINGER (43)** C Gordon 7 11-6 | **F Gordon** | ★115 |
| 10 | 3L5 | **SHEEZER DIVA (55)** D Skelton 6 11-5 | **H Skelton** | 102 |
| 11 | 653/L32 | **SNAPDANCE (16)** R Walford 7 11-4 | **H Kimber** | 110 |
| 12 | 48PP46 | **THIS SWAY (32)** M Comley 5 10-9 | **D Bass** | 108 |

**TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 8 HOOD: Nos. 10, 11.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 8.**

**SP FORECAST:** 3 Grand Conqueror, 4 Snapdance, 9-2 The Two Harrys, 15-2 Sheezer Diva, 8 Geezer Rockstar, 12 Guchen, 14 Washington Singer, 16 Others.

### 4.17 COPYBET MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE
£2,722 (5) 2m (15)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3-4 | **ETERNITY ROSE (33)** F O'Brien 5 11-7 | **Fern O'Brien(5)** | 94 |
| 2 | 4-1 | **INISHBOFIN (273)** W Kittow 5 11-7 | **R Corcoran(7)** | – |
| 3 | 2- | **IN THE CONGO (282)** O Signy 5 11-7 | **Isabelle Ryder(5)** | – |
| 4 | | **INTRASTELLAR** J & A O'Neill 5 11-7 | **B Macey(5)** | – |
| 5 | | ● **LOUXOR DE GRUGY** B Pauling 5 11-7 | **Beau Morgan(5)** | – |
| 6 | 4 | **LOVER DESBOIS (88)** Harry Derham 5 11-7 | **Mr F Maguire** | ★101 |
| 7 | 1 | **PITCH AND TOSS (99)** D Skelton 5 11-7 | **T Durrell** | – |
| 8 | 4 | **SASSELLA STORM (53)** J Boyle 5 11-7 | **D Johnston** | 99 |
| 9 | 3 | **TESTING PATIENCE (50)** G & J Moore 6 11-7 | **Mr Ben Pollard(10)** | – |
| 10 | | **WISEMAN'S BRIDGE** D Killahena & G McPherson 5 11-7 | **Mr J King(3)** | – |
| 11 | L- | **SIX BLUE (291)** R Phillips 6 11-0 | **Harry Atkins(7)** | 58 |
| 12 | | **ARIBIDIA** A King 4 10-9 | **P Armson(3)** | – |
| 13 | | **CHOCKS AWAY** Miss H Knight 4 10-9 | **F Gordon** | – |
| 14 | | **SOLDIER IN DEFENCE** S Hosie 4 10-9 | **P Hanlon(5)** | – |
| 15 | | **EBONY EBBS** Andrew Martin 4 10-2 | **Dillon Butler(10)** | – |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 10.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-2 Louxor De Grugy, 5 Pitch And Toss, 8 Sassella Storm, Lover Desbois, 10 Intrastellar, Aribidia, Inishbofin, 12 Eternity Rose, 16 Others.

**TRACK FACTS: GOING:** Good to Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Nico De Boinville 26% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** N Henderson 24% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.27 Magical King (blinkers), 2.02 Jaja Jimmy (wind surgery), Kiss Gold (cheek pieces), 2.35 Ice In The Veins (wind surgery), Sage Green (hood, tongue strap, wind surgery), 3.07 Yes Indeed (wind surgery), 3.42 Sheezer Diva (hood), Geezer Rockstar (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 4.17 Sassella Storm (wind surgery), In The Congo (tongue strap, wind surgery), Wiseman's Bridge (tongue strap, wind surgery), Six Blue (wind surgery), 12.52 Kapability (tongue strap), Our Peggy (hood), Queenofthejukebox (wind surgery), I'll Give It A Go (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.27 Don't Tell Su(hcp ch). 2.35 Gooloogong(hcp). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Inishbofin** (4.17) 157 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.52 **Cecilia Star** from M Bell to L Wadham, **Georgia's Charm** from H Fry to F O'Brien. 2.02 **Sunset Boulevard** from W P Mullins in Ireland to V Williams. 4.17 **In The Congo** from Miss H Brookshaw to O Signy, **Inishbofin** from S Curling in Ireland to W Kittow, **Pitch And Toss** from Cormac Doyle in Ireland to D Skelton, **Testing Patience** from D Phelan to G & J Moore.

## GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lambourn:** | **Newmarket:** |
| **THE TWO HARRYS** | **LATIN** |
| (3.42 Kempton) | (6.30 Wolverhampton) |
| **South:** | **North:** |
| **LE HIGUERA** | **PARISH STAR** |
| (4.27 Southwell) | (3.17 Southwell) |

## VITAL STATISTICS

**IN-FORM TRAINERS** (last 10 days) J Tizzard 78% (4 wins and 3 places from 9 runners), W Greatrex 75% (1/2/4), A Nicol 67% (3/1/6), C Gordon 67% (1/3/6), T Lacey 67% (1/3/6), C Boultbee-Brooks 57% (1/3/7), D M Simcock 55% (3/3/11), A Honeyball 50% (4/0/8), Billy Aprahamian 50% (1/1/4), G Scott 50% (3/2/10), H Daly 50% (1/3/8), J Goldie 50% (3/3/12), T Faulkner 50% (1/2/6). **IN-FORM JOCKEYS** Benjamin Macey 71% (2 wins and 3 places from 7 runners), Harry Atkins 67% (1/3/6), Brendan Powell 62% (4/6/16), Freddie Keighley 60% (1/2/5), James Bowen 58% (3/11/24), Callum Rodriguez 56% (2/3/9), David Bass 56% (2/3/9), Rowan Scott 54% (2/5/13), William Carson 53% (3/7/19), Luke Morris 52% (9/13/42), Joshua Thompson 50% (4/2/12), Kevin Brogan 50% (2/3/10), Nico De Boinville 50% (2/3/10).

## SOUTHWELL SSR

### THE SCOUT

1.02 Whatsyourproblem
1.37 BENMORE (nap)
2.12 Wilstar
2.45 Herbygoesbananas
3.17 Parish Star
3.52 Beau Quali
4.27 La Higuera

### 1.02 HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£4,700 (Class 4)2m 4f 88yds (7 declared)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1P7543 | **SALLEY GARDENS (107) (C&D)** J Coulson 10 11-12 | **L Saunders(5)** | 117 |
| 2 | 1-U214P | **ABINGWORTH (F42) (D,F)** James Owen 8 11-12 | **S Twiston-Davies** | 119 |
| 3 | 124-16F | **DUNSTALL RAMBLER (62)** T R George 8 11-11 | **K Woods** | ★122 |
| 4 | LP/24P-1 | **ROGER RAREBIT (33) (D)** T Lacey 9 11-9 | **S Sheppard** | 118 |
| 5 | 4251-L3 | ● **WHATSYOURPROBLEM (80)** F O'Brien 8 11-8 | **J Hogan** | 114 |
| 6 | 2L-3644 | **DUHALLOW TOMMY (49) (D)** T Lawes 8 11-5 | **K Brogan** | 121 |
| 7 | 3U253/5- | **LINE OF DESCENT (616) (C&D,F)** W Greatrex 8 11-2 | **R Patrick** | – |

**VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1 HOOD: No. 2.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 6, 4.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-4 Roger Rarebit, 3 Whatsyourproblem, 13-2 Dunstall Rambler, 7 Salley Gardens, 15-2 Abingworth, 12 Line Of Descent, Duhallow Tommy.

**2025: Ideallko 7-10-3, Adam Wedge 9-4 Fav (E Williams), 7 ran.**

### 1.37 SOUTHWELL GOLF CLUB HANDICAP CHASE
£4,700 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (7)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7PFL1P- | **OSTEND (285)** A Ralph 8 12-1 | **T McCain-Mitchell(5)** | 125 |
| 2 | 430-12P | **LIVELY CITIZEN (45) (D)** D J Jeffreys 11 11-12 | **J Tudor** | 123 |
| 3 | 2/41-4 | **DAYTIME DREAMING (80)** T Ellis 6 11-11 | **J Andrews** | 120 |
| 4 | L3/L31-7 | **MR GREY SKY (16) (D)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 12 11-10 | **K Woods** | 125 |
| 5 | 341-712 | ● **BENMORE (38) (D)** L Morgan 6 11-8 | **D McMenamin** | 126 |
| 6 | 2733-34 | **DROMLAC JURY (75)** T Symonds 7 10-4 | **B Poste** | ★127 |
| 7 | 2L6815 | **FLASH IN THE PARK (15) (C&D)** C & A Pogson 8 10-3 | **R T Dunne** | 124 |

**CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 5.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 7, 2, 4.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-4 Benmore, 5-2 Daytime Dreaming, 4 Dromlac Jury, 8 Ostend, 12 Flash In The Park, 14 Mr Grey Sky, 20 Lively Citizen.

**2025: No corresponding race.**

### 2.12 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE) (DIV 1)
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (10)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | LLL | **DINO MOON (11)** E Williams 5 11-7 | **C Ring** | 63 |
| 2 | 0-7 | **GOLLY GOSH (57)** Billy Aprahamian 5 11-7 | **J Andrews** | 85 |
| 3 | 4P-679 | **GOOD BOY GRIFF (37)** G Hanmer 5 11-7 | **J A Anderson(3)** | – |
| 4 | LP | **HOBNAIL (10)** C Dyson 6 11-7 | **Lee Edwards** | – |
| 5 | 3-L | **JOEYBOTTLES (48)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11-7 | **Craig Nichol** | 77 |
| 6 | 00/L5 | **LAWSKY (15)** James Owen 6 11-7 | **A Chadwick(3)** | 64 |
| 7 | 1-5 | **MYRIGHTHANDMAN (79)** T Lacey 5 11-7 | **S Sheppard** | 97 |
| 8 | | **PROMETHEAN (F36)** S England 5 11-7 | **J England** | – |
| 9 | 2-725 | **TREAD CAREFULLY (60)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-7 | **S Twiston-Davies** | ★121 |
| 10 | 31-L2 | ● **WILSTAR (31)** O Murphy 6 11-7 | **K Brogan** | 116 |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 7, 10.**

**SP FORECAST:** Evens Wilstar, 2 Tread Carefully, 7 Myrighthandman, 8 Joeybottles, 25 Good Boy Griff, 33 Promethean, 50 Golly Gosh, 66 Others.

**2025: Karton Plein 5-11-7, Sean Bowen 13-8 (O Murphy), 10 ran.**

### 2.45 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE) (DIV 2)
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (10)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | **DESERTMORE NEWS (72)** T Ellis 6 11-7 | **J Andrews** | – |
| 2 | F | **FOURONEOHFEVER (30)** B Pauling 5 11-7 | **K Woods** | – |
| 3 | PL | **GEORDIE BAY (36)** C Dyson 7 11-7 | **Lee Edwards** | 78 |
| 4 | 1-46 | ● **HERBYGOESBANANAS (22)** Miss H Knight 5 11-7 | **L Williams** | 103 |
| 5 | 22-4 | **MOYGANNY PHIL (62)** O Murphy 6 11-7 | **R T Dunne** | 95 |
| 6 | 3-6 | **MR JUKEBOX (69) (F)** W Greatrex 5 11-7 | **R Patrick** | – |
| 7 | 6-L58 | **QUINTA BRIGADA (12)** E Williams 5 11-7 | **C Ring** | 71 |
| 8 | 76-8P | **RIVER GLANCE (62)** Mrs E Bishop 5 11-7 | **Lilly Pinchin** | – |
| 9 | 646 | **STUNG BY TARIFFS (46)** H Daly 5 11-7 | **S Twiston-Davies** | ★111 |
| 10 | 0LP | **ROSE OF THE SHIRES (33)** A Hales 6 11-0 | **J Hogan** | 33 |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 8 HOOD: No. 8.**

**SP FORECAST:** 3 Fouroneohfever, 10-3 Moyganny Phil, Herbygoesbananas, 4 Mr Jukebox, 13-2 Desertmore News, 8 Stung By Tariffs, 50 Geordie Bay, 66 Quinta Brigada, 200 Others.

**2025: Rule Me In 6-11-7, Jack Tudor 12-1 (Christian Williams), 9 ran.**

### 3.17 MARES' NOVICES' LIMITED HCAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 4f 88yds (11)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 47P/P24- | **BY THE GRACE (338)** N Henderson 7 11-12 | **Mr D Wiliams(7)** | 85 |
| 2 | 8U4-35 | **KUPKA VALLIS (54)** C Boultbee-Brooks 6 11-10 | **R Patrick** | 92 |
| 3 | 420L | **GETAROSE (25)** E Williams 5 11-9 | **C Ring** | 91 |
| 4 | 6L6L | **KELLEBELLE (69)** D J Jeffreys 5 11-7 | **R T Dunne** | 75 |
| 5 | 435214 | **SOMEBODYCOMEGETHER (10)** J Bedi 6 11-7 | **C Rabbitt(3)** | 94 |
| 6 | 3L75-74 | **SNAPAUDACIAHEROS (88)** R Menzies 6 11-4 | **N Moscrop** | 89 |
| 7 | 8-L6P24 | **TIME WAS (21)** P Kirby 9 10-13 | **J Williamson(3)** | 95 |
| 8 | 84P-55L | **LITTLE LADY LUCY (238)** N Mulholland 5 10-11 | **Harriet Tucker(7)** | 92 |
| 9 | 5356P6 | **LILOO D'ORES (45)** G Hanmer 9 10-6 | **J A Anderson(3)** | 100 |
| 10 | 5/45L-31 | ● **PARISH STAR (6) (D,S) (T)** A Nicol 6 10-5 | **J Thompson(5)** | ★101 |
| 11 | 25PL9P | **RAINCLOUD (50)** M Chapman 6 10-5 | **Miss Ellie Holder(7)** | 60 |

**TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 8 HOOD: No. 10.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 10.**

**SP FORECAST:** 7-4 Parish Star, 7-2 By The Grace, 6 Somebodycomegether, Time Was, 8 Kupka Vallis, 14 Little Lady Lucy, Snapaudaciaheros, 20 Liloo D'ores, 33 Others.

**2025: Lyle View 5-10-12, Richie McLernon 15-8 Fav (N Mulholland), 14 ran.**

### 3.52 GOLF & GALLOP PACKAGE HCAP HURDLE
£4,066 (4) 2m 4f 88yds (9)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 24630P | **PRINCE IMPERIAL (33)** J Coulson 9 12-0 | **S Grantham(10)** | ★126 |
| 2 | 6-2152L | ● **BEAU QUALI (52)** Christian Williams 6 12-0 | **T McCain-Mitchell(5)** | 121 |
| 3 | FLU14L | **PIKE ROAD (32)** M Keighley 7 11-10 | **F Keighley(7)** | 120 |
| 4 | 433-1P9 | **THANKYOURLUCKYSTAR (35) (D)** A Ralph 10 11-9 | **J Hogan** | 121 |
| 5 | 3-23 | **FIRM BUT FAIR (33) (F)** Harry Derham 5 11-7 | **S Twiston-Davies** | 115 |
| 6 | 22/5L-39 | **EUREKA CREEK (76) (D)** S Humphrey 10 11-5 | **J Andrews** | 118 |
| 7 | 1U6L34 | **JACKPOT CASH (36) (C&D,F)** James Owen 7 11-4 | **A Chadwick(3)** | 123 |
| 8 | 7/42-433 | **BITSNBUCKLES (34) (D)** O Murphy 8 10-13 | **L Saunders(5)** | 121 |
| 9 | 1-228B3 | **MOTAZZEN (22) (C)** Miss H Knight 8 10-9 | **R T Dunne** | 122 |

**TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 9 HOOD: No. 7.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 9, 3.**

**SP FORECAST:** 5-2 Pike Road, 10-3 Firm But Fair, 4 Beau Quali, 13-2 Bitsnbuckles, 7 Motazzen, 14 Eureka Creek, Jackpot Cash, 20 Thankyourluckystar, 33 Prince Imperial.

**2025: Shantwopointfive 7-11-0, James Bowen 4-1 (W Greatrex), 11 ran.**

### 4.27 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 3m 60yds (7)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7252-4L | **SWEET MAGIC (38)** A Ralph 8 12-0 | **T McCain-Mitchell(5)** | ★102 |
| 2 | 1-L4333 | **BOBALOT (22) (D)** L Horsfall 9 11-11 | **Mr Sean O'Connor(7)** | 101 |
| 3 | 114/L81- | **CHECK THE SCORE (363)** F O'Brien 8 11-11 | **J Hogan** | – |
| 4 | 4-L3231 | ● **LA HIGUERA (11) (D) (S)** T Lawes 7 11-10 | **K Brogan** | 100 |
| 5 | 500767 | **BOMBAY PETE (25)** Christian Williams 5 11-4 | **J Tudor** | 92 |
| 6 | 2L3-PP6 | **HOBB'S DELIGHT (33) (C&D)** N Mulholland 10 11-0 | **B Harris(3)** | 73 |
| 7 | 471402 | **MOVEONBUY (11)** A Crook 6 10-11 | **W Maggs(5)** | 100 |

**VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 4.**
**SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 4, 7.**

**SP FORECAST:** 11-8 La Higuera, 3 Check The Score, 4 Moveonbuy, 8 Bobalot, 10 Sweet Magic, 20 Bombay Pete, 33 Hobb's Delight.

**2025: Edgewell 7-11-6, Conor O'Farrell 7-1 (R Menzies), 11 ran.**

**TRACK FACTS: GOING:** Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Jonathan England 25% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** James Owen 20% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.02 Duhallow Tommy (wind surgery), 1.37 Ostend (wind surgery), 2.12 Myrighthandman (wind surgery), Joeybottles (tongue strap), 2.45 River Glance (wind surgery), 3.17 Kellebelle (tongue strap), 4.27 Hobb's Delight (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.02 Duhallow Tommy(hcp hdl), Line Of Descent(hcp ch). 1.37 Daytime Dreaming(hcp ch), Dromlac Jury(hcp ch), Flash In The Park(hcp ch). 2.12 Wilstar. 2.45 Moyganny Phil. 3.17 By The Grace(hcp hdl). 3.52 Jackpot Cash(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Parish Star** (3.17) 205 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.45 **Desertmore News** from D Leahy in Ireland to T Ellis. 3.52 **Beau Quali** from D Skelton to Christian Williams.

## RESULTS

### LEOPARDSTOWN: Hurdle: heavy; chase: soft

**12.40—COUSIN KATE** (M Kenneally, 13-2) 1; Dameauscottlestown (25-1) 2; Whimsy (16-1) 3; Maxios Prime (20-1) 4. H'cap 18 ran. ¾l, 3¼l, hd. (D Hogan; 11-2 jtfav Shoda, 11-2 jtfav True Testimony). Tote: €7.50; pl €2.00, €6.30, €3.90, €3.90. exacta: €234.20. tricast: €2572.01. trifecta: €2670.50. CSF: €172.32. Non-runner: Disco Dancer.

**1.10—KAID D'AUTHIE** (M P Walsh, 5-1 2nd fav) 1; Western Fold (12-1) 2; Final Demand (3-10 fav) 3. 4 ran. 4¼l, 8l. (W P Mullins). Tote: €6.00; exacta: €28.00. trifecta: €60.40. CSF: €35.62. Non-runner: Rushmount.

**1.40—TALK THE TALK** (J J Slevin, 3-1 fav) 1; Ballyfad (7-2 2nd fav) 2; King Rasko Grey (11-2) 3. 12 ran. shd, ½l. (J P O'Brien). Tote: €4.00; pl €1.60, €1.70, €2.20. exacta: €12.70. tricast: €56.75. trifecta: €54.70. CSF: €13.68.

**2.10—MAJBOROUGH** (M P Walsh, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Marine Nationale (5-4 fav) 2; Found A Fifty (10-1) 3. 6 ran. 19l, hd. (W P Mullins). Tote: €3.00; pl €1.40, €1.40. exacta: €5.40. trifecta: €21.00. CSF: €5.11.

**2.45—BACKMERSACKME** (S Bowen, 14-1) 1; Win Some Lose Some (33-1) 2; Waterford Whispers (7-1) 3; Dee Capo (16-1) 4. H'cap 23 ran. 1l, nk, 3½l. (E Mullins; 11-2 fav Kinturk Kalanisi). Tote: €15.70; pl €3.50, €10.40, €2.30, €4.00. exacta: €996.10. tricast: €3537.10. trifecta: Not won. CSF: €435.12.

**3.20—BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD** (J W Kennedy, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Lossiemouth (4-6 fav) 2; Poniros (33-1) 3. 5 ran. 3¼l, 11l. (G Elliott). Tote: €3.75; pl €1.10, €1.20. exacta: €5.60. trifecta: €36.20. CSF: €5.31. Non-runner: Casheldale Lad.

**3.52—BOWENSONFIRE** (J W Kennedy, 10-1) 1; I Started A Joke (7-4 fav) 2; Kimi De Mai (25-1) 3; Murcia (7-1 ) 4. H'cap 19 ran. 1¾l, 6½l, 3¾l. (G Elliott). Tote: €12.90; pl €2.60, €1.10, €5.60, €2.40. exacta: €42.50. tricast: €491.48. trifecta: €773.40. CSF: €29.10. Non-runner: Tatateo.

**4.27—MOONVERRIN** (Mr F Maguire, 20-1) 1; Royal Hillsborough (9-1) 2; Tiktok Casey (28-1) 3. 9 ran. shd, 1½l. (M Hassett; 9-4 fav Brosna Shine). Tote: €23.90; pl €3.30, €2.30, €2.90. exacta: €195.90. tricast: €4979.09. trifecta: €1890.20. CSF: €186.01. Non-runner: Speisialta.

**Placepot: €424.60**
**(Race 1) 5, 11, 6, 19; (2) 3; (3) 9, 1, 4; (4) 3, 4; (5) 20, 16, 17, 3; (6) 5, 6;**

### MARKET RASEN: Hurdle: good to soft-soft in places; chase: soft-good to soft in places

**12.47—COOLER THAN ME** (Fern O'Brien, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; De Deli Counter (25-1) 2; Annie Nail (22-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, 15l. (F O'Brien; 5-2 fav Wind Your Neck In). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.50, £5.30, £3.20. exacta: £66.80. tricast: £1281.88. trifecta: £540.00. CSF: £66.43.

**1.17—CINQUENTA** (G Sheehan, 6-4 fav) 1; Gee Force Flyer (9-4 2nd fav) 2; Roi Du Risk (8-1) 3. 7 ran. 8½l, 5l. (J Snowden). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.50, £1.50. exacta: £5.00. trifecta: £21.00. CSF: £5.31. Non-runners: Roi Du Roume, Wings Of Arion.

**1.47—GRANDAD'S CAP** (K Brogan, 15-8 2nd fav) 1; Worth The Walk (12-1) 2; Frankie Faulkner (7-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 5l, 4¼l. (L Morgan; 6-5 fav Try The Money). Tote: £2.88; pl £1.50, £3.60. exacta: £19.40. trifecta: £43.70. CSF: £19.66. Non-runners: Alltalknoaction, Lady Harriett.

**2.20—GOLD IN THE RIVERS** (J Tudor, 15-2) 1; Secret Trix (12-1) 2; Ramo (11-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. (D Pipe; 11-10 fav Sunshine Diamond). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.30, £4.20. exacta: £74.20. tricast: £982.68. trifecta: £374.30. CSF: £82.68. Non-runner: Campaign Trail.

**2.55—IMMORTAL FAME** (J Bowen, 9-2) 1; Impatient (11-2) 2; Smurfette (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. hd, 14l. (Deborah Cole; 9-4 fav Kayce Dutton). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.60, £2.50. exacta: £28.70. trifecta: £119.60. CSF: £28.75.

**3.30—KALKAROO** (G Sheehan, 7-4 fav) 1; Mr Zee (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Thesoldiersmint (12-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. shd, ½l. (Billy Aprahamian). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.20, £1.30, £3.40. exacta: £7.80. tricast: £43.24. trifecta: £71.30. CSF: £7.61.

**4.02—FLORITA** (J England, 9-2) 1; Chief Black Robe (15-2) 2; Everyonesacritic (7-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 6½l, 1½l. (S England; 9-4 jtfav Grain Trade, 9-4 jtfav Lone Soldier). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.20, £3.60. exacta: £34.60. trifecta: £154.40. CSF: £36.23.

**Placepot: £748.70**
**(Race 1) 7, 5, 9; (2) 2, 4; (3) 1, 7; (4) 5, 1; (5) 1, 2; (6) 3, 7, 6;**
**Quadpot: £155.30**

### MUSSELBURGH: Good to soft

**12.55—ONLYFORFRANKIE** (C Gethings, 9-1) 1; Mossy Fen Road (1-3 fav) 2; Smoke Trail (33-1) 3. 4 ran. 4¼l, 36l. (A Ralph). Tote: £11.60; exacta: £15.50. trifecta: £72.60. CSF: £13.73.

**1.25—GO WEST** (F Gingell, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Elysian Knight (7-1) 2; Queens Gamble (9-2) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 3¼l, 3½l. (P Nicholls; 7-4 fav Dedicated Hero). Tote: £4.40; pl £1.90, £3.30. exacta: £24.60. trifecta: £93.90. CSF: £25.61.

**1.55—PURE CARBON** (Paul O'Brien, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Aerus Lock (9-1) 2; Kouko (evens fav) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. (Harry Derham). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.40, £2.80. exacta: £15.20. trifecta: £27.00. CSF: £17.16. Non-runners: Bleu D'enfer, Denemethy.

**2.30—SPIRITUIL** (J Thompson, 7-2) 1; The G Wizard (10-3 jt fav) 2; Rememberthename (16-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 2l, 4l. (A Nicol; 10-3 jtfav Newtown Rambler). Tote: £4.70; pl £1.80, £1.20, £4.80. exacta: £17.90. tricast: £172.45. trifecta: £232.10. CSF: £16.90. Non-runner: Magna Victor.

**3.05—TRANSMISSION** (C O'Farrell, 9-2) 1; Rock My Way (2-1 fav) 2; Bodhisattva (8-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 12l, 1¾l. (N Mulholland). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.30, £1.60. exacta: £14.40. tricast: £68.09. trifecta: £78.30. CSF: £14.35. Non-runner: Magna Sam.

**3.40—RED RISK** (F Keighley, 12-1) 1; Idem (22-1) 2; Beachcomber (25-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 2¾l, 1½l. (P Nicholls; 10-3 fav Double Powerful). Tote: £14.80; pl £3.70, £6.60, £5.70. exacta: £280.80. tricast: £6365.76. trifecta: £4941.10. CSF: £252.28. Non-runner: I Live My Baie.

**4.15—DEARKEITHANDKATY** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Whiskey On Ice (18-1) 2; Reflection Of You (6-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, nk. (J & A O'Neill; 11-4 fav Lizzie Luna). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.60, £4.10, £2.40. exacta: £45.50. tricast: £348.58. trifecta: £302.10. CSF: £55.92.

**Jackpot: Not won, pool of £5,073.28 carried over.**

**Placepot: £26,827.60**
**(Race 1) 3; (2) 2, 5; (3) 7, 2; (4) 11, 7, 12; (5) 3, 1; (6) 3, 10, 9;**
**Quadpot: £327.60**

**HIT AND BLISS**
Banton with a six during the fine win and (above) Archer joy as Nissanka is bowled

## SCOREBOARD

**Sri Lanka v England**
**Pallekele: England beat Sri Lanka by six wickets (D/L Method)**

**SRI LANKA**

| | |
|---|---|
| P Nissanka b Archer | 34 |
| R Mishara c Overton b Jacks | 36 |
| B Mendis c Rashid b Dawson | 32 |
| P Rathnayake c Bethell b Archer | 40 |
| M Shanaka lbw Rashid | 1 |
| K Asalanka not out | 28 |
| K Liyanage not out | 1 |
| **B1 lb4 w12** | **17** |
| **Total** (5 wkts., 20 overs) | 189 |

**Fall:** 56, 106, 128, 131, 187.
**Bowling:** Curran 2-0-31-0, Archer 4-0-42-2, Jacks 4-0-24-1, Dawson 4-0-32-1, Rashid 4-0-25-1, Overton 2-0-30-0.

**ENGLAND**

| | |
|---|---|
| P Salt c Mishara b Pathirana | 1 |
| J Buttler c Rathnayake b Wellalage | 39 |
| J Bethell c Mendis b Shanaka | 13 |
| T Banton not out | 54 |
| H Brook c Hasaranga b Pathirana | 36 |
| S Curran not out | 20 |
| **B4 w5 nb1** | 10 |
| **Total (4 wkts., 16.4 overs)** | 173 |

**Fall:** 10, 38, 81, 130.
**Bowling:** Pathirana 4-0-47-2, Shanaka 3-0-24-1, Wellalage 3-0-30-1, Malinga 1.2-0-6-0, Hasaranga 4-0-44-0, Liyanage 1.2-0-18-0.
**Umpires:** I Zoysa & R Kottahachchi.

# TOP BANTS

## Tom shines as he aims to grab slot for the T20 World Cup

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Kandy

**TOM BANTON hopes he has done enough to secure a T20 World Cup starting spot after firing England to a series-clinching victory over Sri Lanka.**

Banton blasted 54 from just 33 balls to lead his side to a challenging revised target after rain interrupted their pursuit of 190 in Kandy.

He shared stands of 43 and 49 with Jos Buttler and Harry Brook (right) respectively after England were left needing 111 from just 58 balls, before Sam Curran hit the winning runs to secure a six-wicket DLS win and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

Banton is likely competing for his spot at No.4 with Ben Duckett – absent with a finger injury – when England open their T20 World Cup campaign on February 8. But the 27-year-old is hopeful his half-century, added to a quickfire 29 in the series opener, is enough to secure his position and is pleased with how he has adapted to a middle-order role.

"I hope so. I'm just trying to perform every time I put on an England shirt and luckily tonight was my night," Banton said.

"I've opened my whole career in white-ball cricket, been in the middle order at times.

"It's exciting, it's different, you've got to give yourself a few balls, depending on the game situation. And then when your match-up comes on you try and take it down.

"I guess there's not much space at the top of the order. You've got two of the best openers in white-ball cricket."

Sri Lanka batted well to post 189-5, led by 40 from 22 from Pavan Rathnayake, as England's seam attack struggled with their eight overs costing a combined 103 runs.

Rain interrupted England's pursuit at 57-2, after the early loss of Phil Salt and Jacob Bethell, but Buttler and Banton got the innings moving upon the resumption before an exhilarating cameo of 36 from 12 balls from Brook put England in command.

Brook launched four huge sixes, including two stunning blows over extra cover off tricky pace bowler Matheesha Pathirana. Banton enjoyed his explosive stand with the captain, adding: "I've known him for a long time now and we're very, very good friends and to see what he's done over the last few years in international cricket is just, pretty crazy. So happy for him."

England's T20 series victory follows their 2-1 win in the ODI series in Colombo and their preparations for the World Cup appear to be going well.

It was also a special night for Buttler, who broke James Anderson's record of England appearances across all formats with his 402nd cap.

Buttler has played 57 Tests, 199 ODIs and now 146 T20 matches and is England's record run-scorer in the shortest format.

The final match of the T20 series takes place at the same ground tomorrow.

# ICC ANGER AT PAKISTAN BOYCOTT BID

BY **DAMIAN SPELLMAN**

PAKISTAN have been urged to consider the interests of cricket across the globe after being told to boycott their T20 World Cup clash with India.

The Government of Pakistan has granted approval to the national team's participation in the event, due to get under way in India and Sri Lanka next Saturday, but only on the proviso they will not take the field for February 15's clash with their Indian counterparts.

In response, governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC) branded the decision "not in the interest of the global game" and called on the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider the long-term implications of its "selective participation".

An ICC statement said: "This position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms.

"This decision is not in the interest of the global game or the welfare of fans worldwide, including millions in Pakistan.

"The ICC hopes the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which it is itself a member and beneficiary of."

## WORLD OF SPORT

# Schott at glory is a surprise for Freddy

### GOLF

FREDDY SCHOTT won his first DP World Tour title after beating Scotland's Calum Hill and former Masters champion Patrick Reed in a play-off at the Bahrain Championship.

The trio were locked together at 17 under par after 72 holes after Reed shot 67 on Sunday to make up a four-shot overnight deficit to Hill, who began the day two clear but had to settle for a 71 after a bogey at the final hole.

German Schott carded 69 to join the pair. Reed bogeyed the first play-off hole to drop out of contention and Hill went out of bounds second time round before shanking his fourth shot into the water and conceding as soon as Schott chipped on to the green.

SCHOTT

Asked to sum up his thoughts, Schott said: "I have no idea. It's just amazing, I'm just extremely happy, surprised... I don't know what's happening right now. I'm just so happy."

THE BIG PICTURE

**HAIR-RAISING: Jarell Miller reacts to his toupee being knocked off in his heavyweight bout against Kingsley Ibeh**

### BOXING

JOSH KELLY knew he was going to be world champion as soon as he turned on his shower.

Kelly, 31, survived a late scare to outpoint dangerous Russian Bakhram Murtazaliev and claim the IBF light-middleweight title.

"I went down to look and it was as if the Olympic rings had been perfectly drawn on the shower," the 2016 Olympian said. "I was surprised at how easy it felt in there sometimes."

### DARTS

LUKE LITTLER was watching on as another rising star made his mark.

Kaya Baysal, 15, became the first person to win the JDC Winmau Junior World Masters.

Baysal has already taken one of Littler's records, as the youngest winner of a WDF event.

Baysal believes world Littler, 19 who was watching on at Arena MK, wants to see the next generation progress. "I can imagine he's very supportive," he said.

1. How many nations competed in the United Cup tennis tournament last month?
**2. Of the six races in the 2025 MotoGP World Championship season where Marc and Alex Marquez filled the first two places, how many did the younger brother win?**
3. For which two counties has England off-spinner Shoaib Bashir played on loan from Somerset?
**4. Which team has won the top football league title more times than any other in Paraguay?**
5. What are the first names of Welsh rugby legend J. P. R. Williams?
**6. Which Jamaica-born British boxer beat Donald Curry to win the world welterweight championship in 1986?**
7. Which former Utah Jazz point guard holds the NBA records for most assists and steals?
**8. In which African country was Mo Farah born?**
9. Which jockey rode the Grand National winners West Tip and Miinnehoma?
**10. Which Russian ice skater was Winter Olympic men's singles gold medallist in 1994?**

**10 to tackle**
**RATINGS**
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

**ANSWERS:** 1 18. 2 One. 3 Worcestershire and Glamorgan. 4 Club Olimpia. 5 John Peter Rhys. 6 Lloyd Honeyghan. 7 John Stockton. 8 Somalia. 9 Richard Dunwoody. 10 Alexei Urmanov.

# Steward: Borth talk was crucial

RUGBY UNION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

FREDDIE STEWARD has revealed details of a pep talk that turned England from a team who could not get over the line into serial winners.

The full-back was part of a squad inherited by Steve Borthwick in 2023 who were in disarray but have now strung together 11 victories in a row.

England open their Six Nations campaign at home to Wales on Saturday and Steward (above) said: "The first thing Steve said when he came in was we want to be a tough team to beat, and we achieved that quite quickly, because although we were losing, they were close games.

"With any team, you've got to discover that bit first, you've got to be really difficult to beat, and then the next bit is to convert those games into ones you win. A lot of it is just a belief we've got.

"Once the first couple came, winning became sort of a habit, and then we started to learn how to win games. If you play Tier 1 teams, it often comes down to that final quarter.

"We had to be very good at being disciplined, tactically smart in the opposition half, and having enough in the tank to get games over the line then."

# FRAN'S HOME RUN

SKIING

**WORLD CHAMPION Franjo von Allmen dominated the last men's World Cup downhill before next week's Olympics.**

**The Swiss star won his second downhill of the season and fourth overall after beating Italian veteran Dominik Paris by 0.65secs.**

**"I really like the slope, it's really easy to ski but not easy to be fast," said von Allmen.**

**His victory came a day after fellow Swiss racer Malorie Blanc won the women's super-G in Crans-Montana.**

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### BASKETBALL

**SLB TROPHY FINAL:** London Lions 74 Newcastle Eagles 68.

### CRICKET

**2ND T20 INT'NAL—Sri Lanka v England** (Pallekele): Sri Lanka 189-5 (20.0 overs). England 173-4 (16.4 overs; T Banton 54no). *England beat Sri Lanka by 6 wickets (D/L Method).*

### DARTS

**PDC WORLD MASTERS** (Milton Keynes)**—Qtr-Finals:** G Price (Wal) bt C Dobey (Eng) 4-2, L Littler (Eng) bt J Rock (NIrl) 4-0, G van Veen (Ned) bt J Wade (Eng) 4-2, L Humphries (Eng) bt D Noppert (Ned) 4-0. **Semi-Finals:** L Littler (Eng) bt G Price (Wal) 5-4, L Humphries (Eng) bt G van Veen (Ned) 5-0. **Final:** L Littler (Eng) bt L Humphries (Eng) 6-5.

### GOLF

**DP WORLD TOUR BAHRAIN CH'SHIP—Final Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless stated, Par 72): **271** F Schott (Ger) 65 67 70 69 (won at the second extra play-off hole), C Hill 67 61 72 71, P Reed (USA) 71 67 66 67, **272** S Garcia (Spa) 70 66 68 68, D Hillier (Nzl) 66 70 70 66, **273** U Coussaud (Fra) 67 68 71 67, **274** I Elvira (Spa) 69 67 69 69, G Forrest 71 66 67 70, **275** O Lindell (Fin) 67 71 69 68, A Pavan (Ita) 69 67 70 69, C Jarvis (Rsa) 71 65 70 69, N Kimsey 72 65 69 69, **276** M Lindberg (Swe) 67 72 66 71, J Berry 70 70 67 69, J Broomhead (Rsa) 72 66 69 69.

### ICE HOCKEY

**ELITE LEAGUE:** Cardiff Devils 1 Nottingham Panthers 4, Sheffield Steelers 8 Fife Flyers 0, Coventry Blaze 4 Manchester Storm 3 (OT), Belfast Giants 5 Glasgow Clan 0.

### RUGBY UNION

**Premiership Rugby Cup**

**Group A**

**EXETER............... 59 SALE.................. 14**

**Exeter—T**: Rigg, Heaven, Goodrick-Clarke, Pearson, Tuima (2), Iosefa-Scott, Moloney, Ridl. **C**: Hodge (7).
**Sale—T**: Wehr, J. Bedlow. **C**: Curtis (2).

**BRISTOL ................8 GLOUCESTER...... 16**

**Bristol—T**: Lane. **P**: Worsley.
**Gloucester—T**: Austin. **C**: Barton. **P**: Barton (3).

| | P | W | D | L | B | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gloucester | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 101 | 100 | 15 |
| Exeter | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 122 | 108 | 13 |
| Sale | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 100 | 126 | 12 |
| Bath | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 100 | 61 | 11 |
| Bristol | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 91 | 119 | 6 |

**Group B**

**NORTH'PTON ...... 40 LEICESTER.......... 22**

**Northampton—T**: McParland (2), Martin, Caqusau, Walker, Pater. **C**: Pater (5).
**Leicester—T**: Pearson, Williams, Clare, McCarthy. **C**: O'Connor.

| | P | W | D | L | B | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leicester | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 111 | 94 | 19 |
| Saracens | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 165 | 102 | 16 |
| North'pton | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 151 | 138 | 15 |
| Newcastle | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 77 | 116 | 11 |
| Harlequins | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 69 | 123 | 0 |

**United Rugby Championship**

**LEINSTER........... 28 EDINBURGH........ 20**
**LIONS ................. 17 BLUE BULLS ....... 52**
**OSPREYS............ 19 DRAGONS............ 13**
**SHARKS.............. 36 STORMERS ......... 24**
**ULSTER............... 21 CARDIFF RUGBY.. 14**
**ZEBRE................. 15 CONNACHT ......... 31**

| | P | W | D | L | B | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glasgow | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 310 | 155 | 44 |
| Leinster | 11 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 301 | 234 | 40 |
| Stormers | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 274 | 161 | 36 |
| Ulster | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 302 | 208 | 36 |
| Cardiff R | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 232 | 203 | 36 |
| Munster | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 227 | 218 | 35 |
| Blue Bulls | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 263 | 258 | 25 |
| Ospreys | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 239 | 263 | 25 |
| Sharks | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 222 | 258 | 24 |
| Lions | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 267 | 310 | 24 |
| B Treviso | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 201 | 266 | 21 |
| Connacht | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 243 | 269 | 21 |
| Edinburgh | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 195 | 194 | 18 |
| Dragons | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 212 | 271 | 18 |
| Scarlets | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 173 | 239 | 15 |
| Zebre | 11 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 190 | 344 | 12 |

### SNOOKER

**WST MACHINESEEKER GERMAN MASTERS** (Berlin)**—Final:** J Trump (Eng) bt S Murphy (Eng) 10-4.

### TENNIS

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN** (Melbourne)— **Finals, Men's Singles:** (1) C Alcaraz (Spa) bt (4) N Djokovic (Ser) 2-6 6-2 6-3 7-5. **Womens Singles:** (5) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt (1) A Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4 4-6 6-4. **Mens Doubles:** (6) C Harrison (USA) & N Skupski (Gbr) bt J Kubler (Aus) & M Polmans (Aus) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4. **Womens Doubles:** (4) E Mertens (Bel) & S Zhang (Chn) bt (7) A Danilina (Kaz) & A Krunic (Ser) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4.

## TODAY'S DIARY

### Premier League

Sunderland v Burnley (8pm)....................
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

### TENNIS

**Transylvania Open** (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).
**Ostrava Open** (Czech Republic).
**Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open** (UAE).
**ATP Open Occitanie** (Montpellier, France).

# ALCARAZ'S STATUS IS LEGENDARY

## King Carlos quickest to career Grand Slam

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

**AS ONE Spanish history-maker watched on eagerly from the front row, another etched his name into the record books.**

At 22 years and 272 days old, Carlos Alcaraz is now the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam.

With his victory against Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open final, the man from Murcia completed his quest to collect all of the biggest prizes the game has to offer.

Alcaraz has now won all four Major titles faster than American Don Budge, whose record had stood since 1938.

He now stands alongside legendary names Fred Perry, Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, Andre Agassi, Roger Federer as a career Grand Slam champion.

Djokovic is also on that list, Alcaraz denying the Serbian his own piece of history – what would have been a 25th Grand Slam title – courtesy of a 2-6 6-2 6-3 7-5 victory in Melbourne.

Rafa Nadal is another on the roll of honour and fittingly he was present in Rod Laver Arena as his countryman clinched his seventh Major.

Alcaraz is five years younger than Djokovic was when he reached that milestone, but was quick to praise his opponent, adding: "I just enjoy so much watching you play. It's been an honour sharing the locker room, sharing the court."

Djokovic, who appeared to cast doubt on whether he has another crack at this title in him, replied: "I'm sure we'll be seeing each other many more times in the next 10 years… not.

"God knows what happens tomorrow, let alone in six months or 12 months. It has been a great ride."

Djokovic, 38, had never been closer to a 25th Slam.

The fourth seed was the better player in taking the first set, as Alcaraz made too many costly mistakes and grew frustrated, muttering to his team.

### CARLOS ALCARAZ MAJORS

Australian Open **2026**
French Open **2024, 2025**
Wimbledon **2023, 2024**
US Open **2022, 2025**

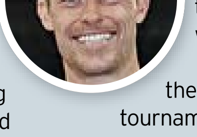
# Neil's new line-up win at the double

BRITAIN'S Neal Skupski is looking forward to the year ahead after starting in style by winning the Australian Open title alongside American Christian Harrison.

The newly-formed duo beat Australian wild card pair Jason Kubler and Marc Polmans 7-6 6-4.

It was the Liverpudlian's second Grand Slam title, after winning at Wimbledon with Dutchman Wesley Koolhof in 2023. "It's obviously nice to get another grand slam," said Skupski (below). "I was very close last year at the US Open and lost narrowly in the French. Christian has given me a new lease of life this year.

"We're very happy. We're so excited for the year ahead. Still things that we can work on, but this is definitely an amazing start." It was just the second tournament the pair had played together. Skupski said: "You don't really know how a new partnership will work out but I knew Christian's game and I had an idea it could work.



"He keeps me going – he's a few years younger than me – so it's maybe what I needed."

It is the third time in the past five grand slam tournaments that there has been at least one British winner, with Henry Patten lifting this trophy last year alongside Finn Harri Heliovaara before the home duo of Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool triumphed at Wimbledon.

Skupski and his former partner Joe Salisbury, meanwhile, reached the final of both the French Open and US Open, coming up just short both times. The latter revealed at the end of the season that he was taking a break from the sport because of anxiety.

But Alcaraz started the second on a better note.

The Serbian began making sloppy mistakes while the Spanish star raised his level, ripping winners and putting the 10-time former champion on the back foot to level.

Djokovic looked better when he returned from a bathroom break for the third. But Alcaraz found winners all over the court.

Stunning the crowd when he chased down a ball, Djokovic hit a backhand around the net post and into the corner of the court. But Alcaraz was there, hitting a winner.

Djokovic stood with his hands on his hips in disbelief – and it set the tone as the Spaniard edged ahead.

With his energy finally dipping and serving to stay in the match in the fourth set, Djokovic hit three unforced errors in a row to crown Alcaraz the champion and send him to the floor.

Once upon a time, it was Nadal standing in the way of Djokovic's route to glory. But, with the 39-year-old safely retired and in the crowd, this time it was Alcaraz.

Djokovic stood with hands on hips in disbelief – and it set the tone

**TEAM EFFORT** Alcaraz celebrates with his coaches

# NOVAK'S FATAL FLAW COST HIM MAJOR RECORD

**COMMENT** BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

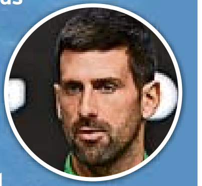
NOVAK DJOKOVIC remains stranded on 24 Grand Slams - and his epic pursuit of the record 25th now seems destined to end in Shakespearean-like tragedy.

This was surely the 38-year-old's final chance to go one better than Margaret Court, at his favourite Slam. And for all his tennis genius, he had a fatal flaw.

The Australian Open has been the scene of his most triumphs - 10 titles - and his biggest scandal, when he was deported in 2022 after arriving without a COVID-19 vaccine.

His principled or hubristic, unhinged stance - you decide - also cost him the chance to play in the US Open. The hard-court specialist would have won both titles.

But the man who has spent so much of his career courting controversy has now become a sentimental favourite.



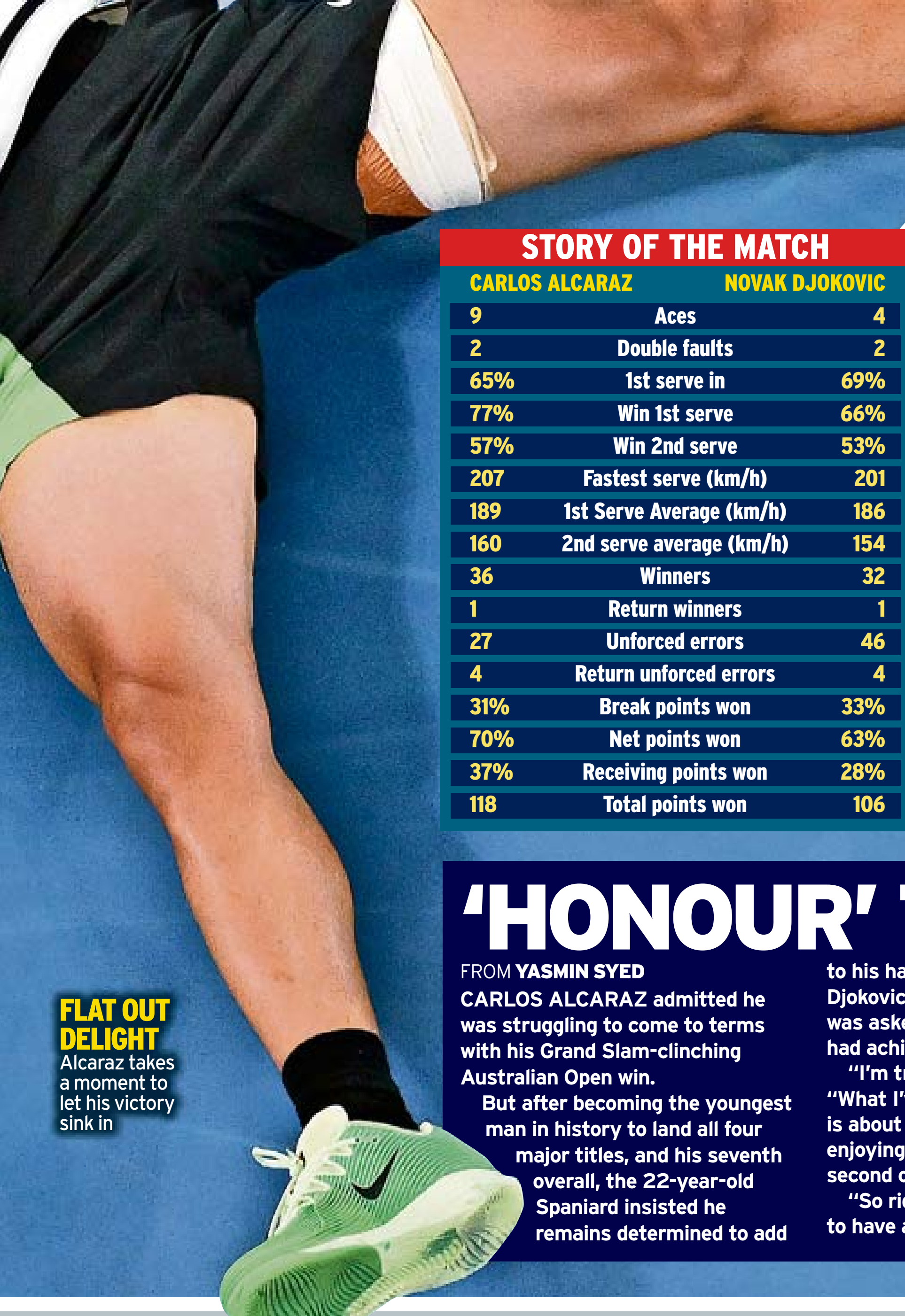
For so long behind Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal in the GOAT race and popularity stakes, Djokovic (right) thanked the Aussie crowd for their "love and support" after losing his latest generation game to Carlos Alcaraz.

Beating both Jannik Sinner and the Spaniard in the same Slam has proved beyond Djokovic. He played a sensational first set but time and Alcaraz, 22, caught up with him.

During my near 20 years as tennis correspondent, I had my run-ins with Djokovic. He was disqualified from the 2020 US Open for hitting a line judge with a ball - another likely Slam gone.

But Djokovic developed into the most controversial and newsworthy tennis star.

World-class sports stars are different - and he takes that truism to an extreme. I wanted him to win a 25th - and still hope he can - but for me he is still the greatest tennis player of all time.


**FLAT OUT DELIGHT** Alcaraz takes a moment to let his victory sink in

## STORY OF THE MATCH

| CARLOS ALCARAZ |  | NOVAK DJOKOVIC |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Aces | 4 |
| 2 | Double faults | 2 |
| 65% | 1st serve in | 69% |
| 77% | Win 1st serve | 66% |
| 57% | Win 2nd serve | 53% |
| 207 | Fastest serve (km/h) | 201 |
| 189 | 1st Serve Average (km/h) | 186 |
| 160 | 2nd serve average (km/h) | 154 |
| 36 | Winners | 32 |
| 1 | Return winners | 1 |
| 27 | Unforced errors | 46 |
| 4 | Return unforced errors | 4 |
| 31% | Break points won | 33% |
| 70% | Net points won | 63% |
| 37% | Receiving points won | 28% |
| 118 | Total points won | 106 |

**MAJOR JOY** Nadal enjoys watching his compatriot Alcaraz win in Melbourne

# 'HONOUR' TO JOIN HISTORY BOYS

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

CARLOS ALCARAZ admitted he was struggling to come to terms with his Grand Slam-clinching Australian Open win.

But after becoming the youngest man in history to land all four major titles, and his seventh overall, the 22-year-old Spaniard insisted he remains determined to add to his haul. After denying Novak Djokovic a 25th slam title , Alcaraz was asked if he realised what he had achieved.

"I'm trying," he said. "What I've learnt this year is about appreciating and enjoying every single second of the moment.

"So right now I'm just trying to have a time to realise what I've been doing. It's an honour to put my name on the history books."

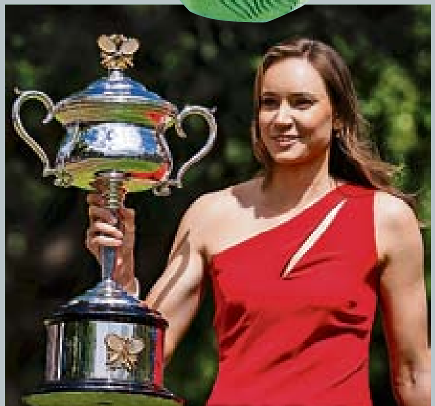
Until now, the world No.1 had never been beyond the quarter-finals in Melbourne, while his shock split from long-time coach Juan Carlos Ferrero (left) last month left many questioning whether he could go all the way.

But Alcaraz said: "I didn't think about those people that had doubts about it. I came here just playing for myself, playing for my team."

Djokovic, who came through a five-setter against world No.2 Jannik Sinner in the semis, said: "I knew that I'd probably have to beat two of them on the way to the title.

"I beat one, which is great .I'm going to keep pushing and see if I get another chance."

# Now 'scary' champ Rybakina is in the mood to dominate


**CUP AND SORCERER** Rybakina shows off the trophy after Australian Open glory

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

ELENA RYBAKINA is hungry for more after ending a three-and-a-half-year wait to lift her second Grand Slam title.

The No.5 seed rallied from 3-0 down in the deciding set to beat two-time former champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4 4-6 6-4 and be crowned the Australian Open champion.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina, 26, lifted her maiden Grand Slam title at Wimbledon 2022. She also lost to Sabalenka in the 2023 final here in Melbourne – and was left wondering whether she would ever lift another Major trophy.

Rybakina said: "I always believed that I could come back to the level I was. Of course, we all have ups and downs.

"Like everyone, I thought maybe I will never be again in the final or even get a trophy, but it's all about the work." Rybakina returns to No.3 in the world today and wants to shoot even higher.

She added: "I will focus on all the Grand Slams, all the big events. You want to win as many as possible.

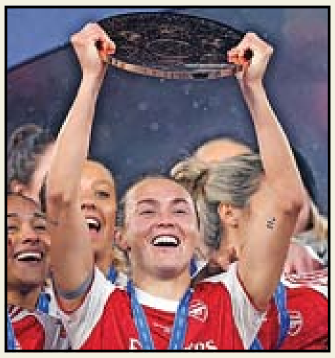
"You are getting more hungry and more motivated."

The new Aussie Open champion has won more matches than anyone else since Wimbledon last year, and has triumphed in her past 10 meetings with fellow top-10 opposition. Rybakina said: "It's an unbelievable statistic. It gives kind of relief also, and a lot of confidence for the rest of the season. I just hope that I can carry all this momentum."

Australian Alicia Molik, the now-retired former world No.8, is backing "scary" Rybakina to dominate the tour.

Molik said: "This is scary, because I think it's going to be the catalyst for a lot more dominance for Rybakina.

"The power, she found it when she needed it in the third set."



**CHAMPION:** Matchwinner Foorde

# SUPER SUB FOORD HITS TOP GEAR

### Arsenal 3 Corininthians 2
### AET 90mins 2-2

*Women's Champions Cup Final*

BY **RACHEL STEINBERG**

ARSENAL were crowned the inaugural Women's Champions Cup winners after substitute Caitlin Foord fired the Gunners to an extra-time victory over Brazilian side Corinthians.

The new FIFA club competition's final was played out under drenched conditions at the Emirates Stadium, where the north Londoners also secured £1.67m in prize money.

Corinthians captain Gabi Zanotti cancelled out Olivia Smith's 15th-minute opener in the first half before Lotte Wubben-Moy nodded Arsenal back in front after the break.

Arsenal were moments from victory but Katie McCabe conceded a stoppage-time penalty scored by Vic Albuquerque.

But Foord struck in the first period of extra-time with a shot snuck in at the near post.

Celebrations were subdued, however, after Arsenal goalkeeper Anneke Borbe went down in a collision late in the second period of extra time and was removed from the pitch on a stretcher, after a lengthy pause to receive treatment on the pitch.

Arsenal manager Renee Slegers said: "It's football in all its ways today. There's good football, duelling, momentum shifts.

"I'm proud of the team in the rain, in the circumstances, we get over the line and find a way to win this game."

Wubben-Moy said: "It's not often that at Arsenal you can write history because history has been written so many times. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

"To come to this inaugural competition and win it and do it with all of our fans here in style – our fans are wonderful and that's who we do it for."

**LOW POINT:** Borbe is carried off

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# BENJAMIN IS ON THE BUTTON

## Sesko home delivery brings another win in Carrick time

**3-2** Sesko turns to ping the ball into the top corner moments after Fulham levelled

**MAN UTD 3**
Casemiro 19, Cunha 56, Sesko 90
**FULHAM 2**
Jimenez 85 (pen), Kevin 90

BY **TYRONE MARSHALL**

**WELCOME to Carrick time.**

For the second week in a row, Michael Carrick's Manchester United reacted to a late equaliser by going up the other end and scoring an even later winner.

When Kevin scored a stunning leveller for Fulham in the 91st minute, United hearts sank.

But another miserable afternoon of VAR had led to nine added minutes and, for United at their best, that is always more than enough time.

We weren't even halfway through that when Benjamin Sesko controlled Bruno Fernandes' cross and arrowed a shot into the roof of the net.

It sent Old Trafford wild, but Carrick and assistant Steve Holland were the calmest men in the building.

United's substitutes had torn off down the touchline to celebrate the goal but Holland raced after them, telling Leny Yoro he was needed to come on and see out the win.

The home side survived a nervy finale into the 102nd minute to secure Carrick a third successive victory.

That already matches the longest winning run of the Ruben Amorim era.

At the final whistle, Carrick was wrapped in an embrace by Casemiro (below), who scored one and set another up as part of an excellent midfield display alongside the tenacious Kobbie Mainoo.

The Brazilian, relishing his prolonged farewell tour, and the boy from Stockport who could have easily left the club in this window, have re-established an impressive partnership. Mainoo began January thinking he would have to leave United to play first-team football.

Now he is one of the first names on the teamsheet.

One thunderous first-half tackle on Raul Jimenez set the tone for a display that mixed steel with real quality.

This felt like a step forward for United at home, where they have been passive against this level of opposition for too long.

They played with tempo and invention, led by the brilliant Amad Diallo, who gave Antonee Robinson an afternoon he will be keen to forget.

Fulham were angry with the manner of United's opener.

Referee John Brooks pointed to the spot when Jorge Cuenca appeared to foul Matheus Cunha, but the replays showed the centre-back took the ball. Discussions between Brooks and VAR James Bell revealed that Brooks said the penalty had been given for holding.

Bell adjudged that to have happened outside the box and told the referee to award a free-kick instead.

Cuenca did have a hand on Cunha's shirt at one point, but it felt soft and the Old Trafford side were grateful for their reprieve.

Fernandes' delightful free-kick was lofted on to the head of Casemiro, who steered it beyond Bernd Leno for his first goal since confirming he will leave the club at the end of the season.

A sign of United's ambition in possession came early in the second half when Diogo Dalot timed a pass perfectly for Bryan Mbeumo's run but goalkeeper Leno smothered the shot.

United were managing to sustain attacks, though, and the pressure eventually paid off.

Cunha's emphatic finish came after a spell when the Cottagers just couldn't get out

### PREMIER LEAGUE

| MAN UTD | | FULHAM |
|---|---|---|
| 42% | POSSESSION | 58% |
| 6 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 6 |
| 4 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 3 |
| 421 | TOTAL PASSES | 561 |
| 3 | CORNERS | 7 |
| 1 | OFFSIDES | 2 |
| 6 | FOULS | 9 |
| 0 🟥 2 🟨 | CARDS | 1 🟨 0 🟥 |

REF: John Brooks

### LINE-UPS

**MAN UTD (4-2-3-1):** Lammens, Dalot (Mazraoui 86), Maguire, Martinez, Shaw, Casemiro (Ugarte 75), Mainoo, Diallo, Fernandes, Cunha (Sesko 74), Mbeumo (Yoro 90).

**FULHAM (4-2-3-1):** Leno, Castagne, Andersen, Cuenca (Bassey 86), Robinson (Sessegnon 71), Iwobi, Berge, Chukwueze (Cairney 79), Wilson, Smith Rowe (Kevin 71), Jimenez.

**MAN OF THE MATCH**
**AMAD DIALLO**

1-0 **CASE OPENS** Casemiro rises highest to head in United's first goal

2-0 **MAT FINISH** Cunha thrashes a rising shot into the roof of the Fulham net

2-1 **HOT SPOT** Jimenez calmly slots his penalty into the top corner

2-2 **FUL MONTY** Kevin curls in a stunning injury-time equaliser for the visitors

**LOVE IT** Man of the match Diallo shows the crowd what he thinks

of defence. That should have been that for United, and Sesko missed a chance to kill the game off when he headed Diallo's cross against the post just seconds after coming on.

The miss threatened to be costly when Fulham scored with five minutes to go. Harry Maguire was a little unlucky in conceding the penalty, taking Jimenez out as the Mexican got his shot away.

The striker made no mistake when sending his spot-kick into the roof of the net.

Six minutes later, they were all square as Kevin cut in from the left and curled a sensational finish into the far corner.

It looked like more dropped points at Old Trafford for United – until Sesko's sensational intervention.

**JUST THE JOB** Michael Carrick is all smiles as he congratulates Benjamin Sesko

## 'I've been dreaming of that'

**FROM BACK PAGE**

in training, he's looked dangerous, he's done extra. The coaches have done a lot of bits on the side, and Trav particularly has done a lot of work one-on-one with him."

Sesko said: "Scoring at home and scoring the winner is unbelievable. I've been dreaming about that."

An afternoon which started with a protest by the 1958 fan group outside Old Trafford against the Glazers and Sir Jim Ratcliffe ended up with United climbing to fourth in the table. But Fulham boss Marco Silva fumed about United's opener, after Jorge Cuenca was adjudged to have brought down Matheus Cunha in the box by referee John Brooks.

VAR James Bell overturned it, but Casemiro heaed in Bruno Fernandes' resulting free-kick.

"The story of the game started with a horrendous terrible decision from John Brooks with the penalty he gave," said Silva.

# Race row Saint-Max quits Mex

FORMER Newcastle winger Allan Saint-Maximin has left Mexican side Club America by mutual consent after claiming his children were victims of racist abuse.

Last week, the 28-year-old Frenchman (below) posted on social media about his family being targeted.

Saint-Maximin, who has also played for Al-Ahli and Fenerbahce since leaving St James' Park in 2023, wrote on Instagram: "I'm being attacked, not a problem – I grew up, I learned to fight against attacks... but there's one thing I will never tolerate is my kids being picked on.

"Protecting my children is my priority and I will fight to make sure they are respected and loved, regardless of their background or colour of their skin."

Club America coach Andre Jardine said: "Regarding Maximin, he's a fantastic player, he has the ability to play in any league in the world. We wish him all the best."

## FOOTBALL LATEST

● OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO has left Arsenal to join Ajax on a permanent transfer. The Ukraine left-back, 29, had been on loan at Nottingham Forest but that deal was cut short.

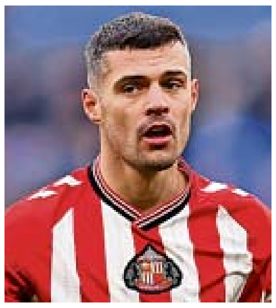
● **EVERTON have agreed a deal to sign Chelsea winger Tyrique George on a loan deal until the end of the season, with an option to buy the 19-year-old. The Blues are also expected to loan out defender Aaraon Anselmino to Strasbourg.**

● NOTTINGHAM FOREST have signed Manchester City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, 33, until the end of the season.

● **NEWCASTLE skipper Jamaal Lascelles is set to leave after 12 years on Tyneside. Birmingham and Leicester have held talks.**

● BRIGHTON'S Tommy Watson, 19, has joined Millwall on loan until the end of the season.

● **Cardiff have completed the loan of Liverpool left-back Calum Scanlon until the summer.**



# Talisman Xhaka is two hard to replace

**Sunderland v Burnley**
*Tonight, 8pm*

BY **JASON MELLOR**

REGIS LE BRIS is holding out for a hero or two after admitting it will take more than one man to fill a Granit Xhaka-shaped hole in Sunderland's midfield.

The Black Cats' talisman and skipper (above) has been ruled out for most of February with an ankle injury in a major blow to the Wearsiders' hopes of building on their impressive first-half to the campaign.

Le Bris believes it probably takes two players to stand in for the Switzerland midfielder.

It is just one league win in seven since the Wear-Tyne victory over Newcastle in December as mid-table Sunderland look to stretch their impressive 11-game unbeaten home record in the Premier League against Burnley tonight.

The Black Cats' boss said: "We can't replace a leader like Granit. Even in the best teams in the world you don't often have this kind of player. With Granit missing we have to split the responsibility.

"We know how important midfielders are because they can influence so much in and out of possession so now others will be involved while we're without Granit.

"We need them to come in, play well and be vocal. "

Burnley have to believe they can end the top flight's last remaining unbeaten home record.

The Turf Moor side finished 24 points above Sunderland as both clubs won promotion last season - but are 10 adrift of safety.

The Clarets have won just once away this season, but did beat the Wearsiders 2-0 in August.

Boss Scott Parker said: "We're in for an incredibly tough game."

**SUNDERLAND (probable):** Roefs; Mukiele, Alderete, Ballard, Mandava; Sadiki, Diarra, Hume; Talbi, Brobbey, Le Fee.

**BURNLEY (probable):** Dubravka; Humphreys, Esteve, Tuanzebe; Walker, Florentino, Ugochukwu, Pires; Edwards, Broja, Anthony.

**Referee:** Paul Tierney.

---

# SPURS' GLASS

**2-2** Solanke improvises a brilliant scorpion kick to level the match

## PREMIER LEAGUE

| TOTTENHAM | | MAN CITY |
|---|---|---|
| 39% | POSSESSION | 61% |
| 6 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 3 |
| 1 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 8 |
| 371 | TOTAL PASSES | 574 |
| 3 | CORNERS | 4 |
| 1 | OFFSIDE | 2 |
| 15 | FOULS | 12 |
| 0 0 | CARDS | 0 0 |

**REF:** Rob Jones. **ATT:** 61,337

### LINE-UPS

**TOTTENHAM (5-2-3):** Vicario; Gray, Palhinha, Romero (Sarr 46), Dragusin, Udogie; Bissouma (Odobert 68), Gallagher; Simons, Kolo Muani (Tel 68), Solanke (Byfield 90).

**MAN CITY (4-1-4-1):** Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Guehi, Ait Nouri (Gonzalez 70); Rodri (Marmoush 94); Cherki (Reijnders 69), Bernardo (Foden 88), O'Reilly, Semenyo; Haaland.

**MAN OF THE MATCH**
**DOMINIC SOLANKE**

**TOTTENHAM 2**
Solanke 53, 70
**MAN CITY 2**
Cherki 11, Semenyo 44

BY **JOHN CROSS**

**TWENTY ONE months on from the game Tottenham wanted to lose, they produced an incredible fightback.**

And by the end, the Spurs fans were giving their players a standing ovation while the Manchester City players trudged off in utter despair.

To say this was one of the most bizarre games you are likely to see just does not begin to do it justice.

Tottenham were so bad in the first half. Embarrassingly so. Then they were warriors in the second half.

You might remember it was two seasons ago when swathes of Spurs fans wanted to lose to City in this fixture in the penultimate game of the season to stop their bitter rivals Arsenal winning the title.

This time they ended up doing the Gunners a huge favour in the race for the Premier League crown, because it meant City dropped two precious points to leave Mikel Arteta's men six clear at the summit.

But this time it was about Tottenham. And maybe, just maybe, it can be the turning point head coach Thomas Frank needed, because they were on their knees and depleted by injuries.

Yet two-goal Dominic Solanke was sensational in front of England head coach Thomas Tuchel. And Xavi Simons produced an incredible performance of superhuman proportions. For someone so small, he played like a giant.

And the losers were City.

They were so comfortable in the first half that Sky pundit Gary Neville compared it to a Soccer Aid charity match. Tottenham were not even in the contest. But, by the end, it was more points dropped for City.

Incredibly, they have now dropped seven points from goals conceded in the second half since January 1.

It was a decade to the day that Pep Guardiola was named as City manager. And, as good as they are at times going forward, they have a vulnerability, not just in defence but in the way they drop points. This is a million miles away from a classic City side.

They have got sensational players and may still end up winning the title. But they never used to give opponents a chance. Here they handed a point to Spurs – and gave Arsenal even a huge helping hand.

Let us not forget that Tottenham were so depleted that they were missing 11 players through injury and Radu Dragusin was making his first start in 371 days. And it showed. They were woeful in the first half. Patched-up and not even competitive.

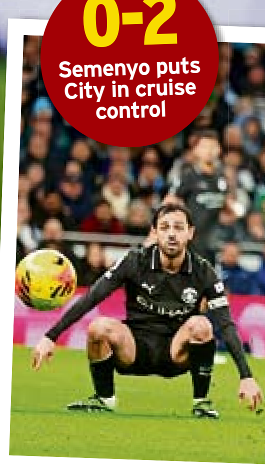
City were ahead after just 11 minutes and the goal was littered with Spurs mistakes.

Yves Bissouma's clearance went straight to Bernardo Silva. Erling

## PREMIER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 24 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 46 | 17 | 53 |
| Man City | 24 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 49 | 23 | 47 |
| Aston Villa | 24 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 35 | 26 | 46 |
| Man Utd | 24 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 44 | 36 | 41 |
| Chelsea | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 42 | 27 | 40 |
| Liverpool | 24 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 39 | 33 | 39 |
| Brentford | 24 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 36 | 32 | 36 |
| Fulham | 24 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 34 | 35 | 34 |
| Everton | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 27 | 34 |
| Newcastle | 24 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Sunderland | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 26 | 33 |
| Bournemouth | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 40 | 43 | 33 |
| Brighton | 24 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 34 | 32 | 31 |
| Tottenham | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 35 | 33 | 29 |
| Crystal Palace | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 25 | 29 | 29 |
| Leeds | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 42 | 26 |
| Nottm Forest | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 35 | 26 |
| West Ham | 24 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 29 | 48 | 20 |
| Burnley | 23 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 25 | 44 | 15 |
| Wolves | 24 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 45 | 8 |

**0-1** Cherki exploits the space to score opener



**0-2** Semenyo puts City in cruise control

# HALF FULL

## Fans applaud fightback despite handing rivals huge boost in title race as City throw it away

1-2 Game on as Solanke forces the ball in

Haaland fed Rayan Cherki and Dragusin stood off , giving the City playmaker far too much space to pick his spot and the shot was deflected past goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario, who maybe should have done better.

Cherki could have got another before Antoine Semenyo put them two-up before half-time. Dragusin's poor ball out of defence went straight to Rodri. Bernardo set up Semenyo, who fired home. The boos started.

It looked all over. But Frank hooked Cristian Romero, brought on Pape Matar Sarr and went to a back four to match City's shape – and their fight.

Destiny Udogie saw a thunderous shot brilliantly saved by City keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. But it gave Spurs hope. Solanke battled for the ball, stayed just onside and then threw himself into a tussle in the City box. The striker actually kicked through the back of Marc Guehi, but it was eventually given as Solanke's goal.

More followed. Conor Gallagher drove forward down the right, his cross found Solanke who improvised brilliantly and, with the ball behind him, somehow performed a spectacular scorpion kick to get the ball past Donnarumma. It was an incredible goal.

Tottenham could have scored again. Simons and Wilson Odobert were both denied by brilliant Donnarumma saves.

City stormed forward, laid siege and but did not manage a shot on target in the second half.

What a result for Tottenham, and the other half of north London.

# Pep rage at ref call in crucial moment

FROM BACK PAGE

Premier League. There was an emotional issue for the first goal that the referee conceded to Spurs, and after that, the momentum is difficult to control, whatever happens here in England."

But when asked whether City are losing hope in the title race, Guardiola added: "So you are saying to me get rid of the Premier League? With 14 games to play? We are there. We continue."

Guardiola has been left fuming at other recent refereeing decisions, against Newcastle in the Carabao Cup and Wolves.

It did help Tottenham, who lost Cristian Romero to illness at half-time, stage a remarkable turnaround.

From being booed off at the break, the Spurs fans gave the players a standing ovation at the end.

Head coach Thomas Frank (above) said: "It was a big point with that second-half performance.

"We can create something magic together, the players and the fans, when we are united like we were especially second half. That atmosphere, intensity, that's what pushed the players.

"It is quite evident that Dom has been a big miss for us. We've been without him for six months. Four goals in four games speaks its own language, he was very impressive."

# Tarkowski keen on Jack stay

BY **STEVE JUDGE**

JAMES TARKOWSKI would love it if Jack Grealish made his loan spell at Everton permanent, despite being ruled out for the rest of the season.

Boss David Moyes revealed on Friday that the Manchester City winger (above) will likely need surgery on a stress fracture of his foot.

It is a devastating blow for Grealish, which has ended any hope he had of regaining his England place for this year's World Cup.

And Toffees defender Tarkowski said: "I'm gutted for him, I really am.

"He's had a tough couple of years where he's not played loads. He's just got back playing, week-in, week- out. He's enjoying his football and being here.

"We loved having him around the place. I'm so disappointed for him, so I wish him all the best, and hopefully he can get himself back on the pitch.

"We'll just have to see what happens. But someone of his talent and ability, we'd obviously love to have him."

# Kop Geer bid stalls

BY **IAN DOYLE**

LIVERPOOL'S hopes of taking over Lutsharel Geertruida's loan deal at Sunderland for the remainder of the season are fading ahead of this evening's transfer deadline.

Geertruida, who played under Reds boss Arne Slot while at Feyenoord, has been with the Black Cats on loan from RB Leipzig.

The 25-year-old Geertruida, a right-back who can also play centre-back and in defensive midfield, emerged as one of several options Liverpool are considering.

However, agreement is needed with both Sunderland and Leipzig.

While it is understood both the player and Liverpool are keen to proceed, Sunderland ave been unable to source a replacement.

DAILY EXPRESS
SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

**Banton batters Sri Lanka: P45**

**ROAR EMOTION** Sesko is mobbed after late winner

# Sesko's drilled it home

BY **TYRONE MARSHALL**

**Manchester United 3 Fulham 2**

MICHAEL CARRICK revealed Benjamin Sesko is reaping the benefits of one-to-one coaching after the Slovenia star scored a dramatic late clincher to stretch Manchester United's winning run to three games.

Sesko came off the bench to seal a thrilling win for United after Fulham had looked like wrecking Carrick's dream start as boss by roaring back from two goals down at Old Trafford. And the delighted interim manager claimed their £73million summer signing can now start living up to his hefty price tag after working with first-team coach Travis Binnion to fine tune.

"Huge moment," said Carrick of Sesko's clincher. "It's the best feeling.

"Everyone in the changing room, players, staff, is absolutely delighted for him and the reception he got when he came back in the changing room, kind of told us everything. He's been bright

TURN TO PAGE 49, COLUMN 4

## TOTTENHAM 2 2 MAN CITY

# Guardiola's ref rage as City drop vital points

BY **JOHN CROSS**

**PEP GUARDIOLA was left fuming at another refereeing decision after Manchester City dropped two precious points in the title race.**

The City manager clearly felt Dominic Solanke's first effort should have been disallowed for a foul on Marc Guehi.

Spurs' stunning second-half fightback from 2-0 down did their bitter rivals a huge favour, with Arsenal six points clear at the top.

But Guardiola, who was booked for his complaints at referee Rob Jones and his officials after watching the replay on the big screen, said: "Well, if you do it to a striker it would be a penalty. I'm not a referee. Fascinating in the

TURN TO PAGE 51, COLUMN 4

**DRIVEN MAD** Guardiola appeals to fourth official Andy Madley

# PEP CRIES FOUL

**LEAVING A MARC** Solanke kicked through Guehi to score

## FOREST HANG ON FOR DRAW: PULLOUT P4-5

# Villa title bid dented by loss to bold Bees

**VILLA 0 BRENTFORD 1**

DAILY EXPRESS Fever Pitch WEEKEND FOOTBALL: ACTION, REACTION & ANALYSIS

Daily Express Monday, February 2, 2026

express.co.uk/sport

**IT'S A BEES KNEES-UP** Dango Ouattara celebrates with Mathias Jensen

Ouattara and VAR deal huge blow to Villa's title dream

REPORT: PAGES 2-3

**AGONY** Tammy Abraham saw a goal ruled out by VAR on his 'second debut' for Villa

YOU'VE

**YOUR PULLOUT FREE INSIDE**

# Carlos is youngest man to do full Slam

**TENNIS: P46-47**

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# Puzzles

## SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

### EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | | 8 | | 3 | | |
| 7 | 4 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1 | | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | | | 5 |
| | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | | 6 | |
| | | 6 | | 9 | | 7 | | |
| | 7 | | 6 | | 3 | | 9 | |
| 2 | | | 4 | 6 | 8 | | | 7 |
| 3 | | 7 | 2 | | | | | 8 |
| | | 4 | | 1 | | 2 | | |

### MEDIUM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | 8 | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 5 | | 8 | | | |
| | 6 | | 9 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| | 1 | 2 | | 4 | | 3 | 5 | |
| 7 | | | | | 3 | | | 2 |
| | 3 | 6 | | 2 | | 4 | 1 | |
| | 4 | | 6 | | 1 | | 8 | |
| | | 3 | 4 | | 5 | | | |
| | | 9 | | | | 6 | | 5 |

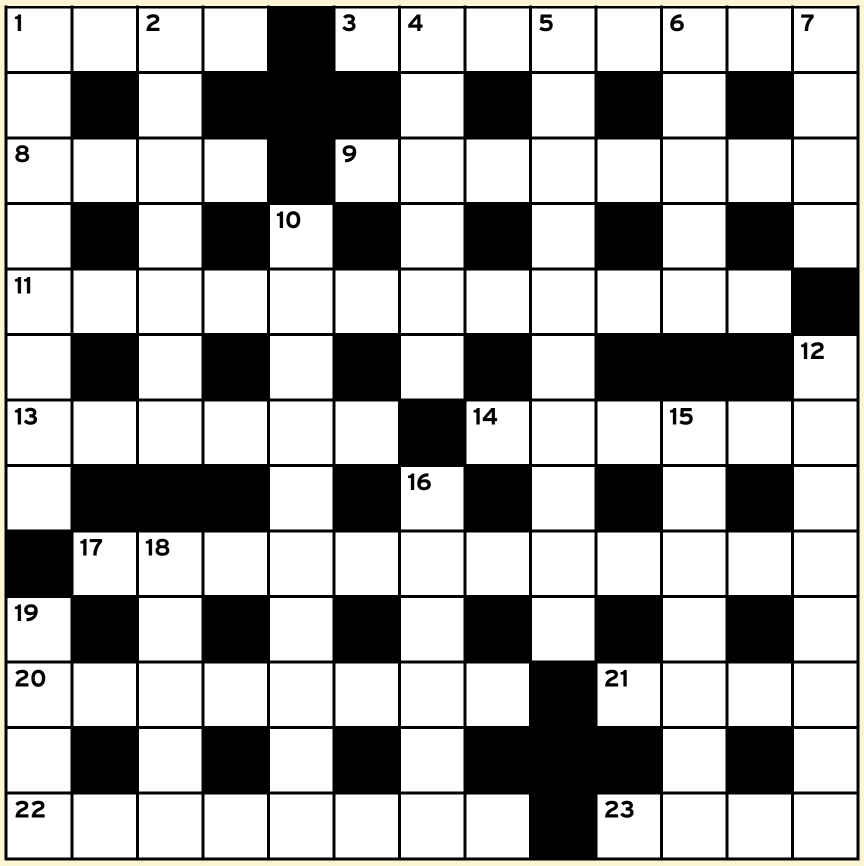
### DIFFICULT

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 6 | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| 3 | | | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| | | | 3 | | 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | | 6 | | | | 7 |
| 1 | | 9 | | | | 7 | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | | |

Extra clues:
**0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
**0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

## QUICK CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**
- **1** Foundation (4)
- **3** Wedlock (8)
- **8** Kiln (4)
- **9** Imagine (8)
- **11** Wonder (12)
- **13** Grain (6)
- **14** Place of worship (6)
- **17** Self-contradictory (12)
- **20** Not spoken (8)
- **21** Quote (4)
- **22** Seclusion (8)
- **23** Minus (4)

**DOWN**
- **1** Cheerfulness (8)
- **2** Refuge (7)
- **4** Excite (6)
- **5** Repay (10)
- **6** Foreign (5)
- **7** Pitcher (4)
- **10** Opponent (10)
- **12** Agitated (8)
- **15** Exact (7)
- **16** Climb (6)
- **18** Nautical (5)
- **19** Ado (4)

**Solution tomorrow**

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

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## CROSS DOUBT

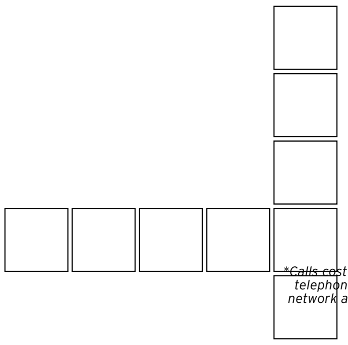
**Target times:** Average: **16 mins** Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
**0901 322 5601**
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
**0901 322 5607**
Both today's words in a moment!

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

**See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter.** **Solution tomorrow**



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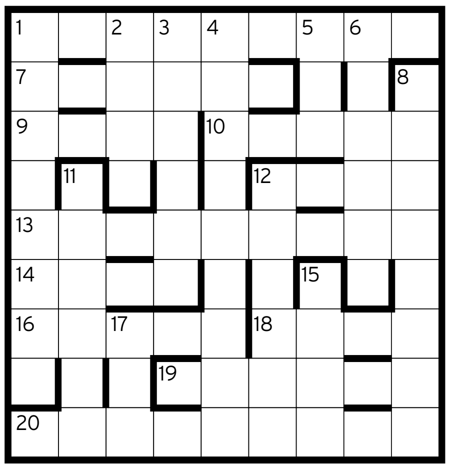
**A A D H I I L S Y**

## SMALL CROSSWORD



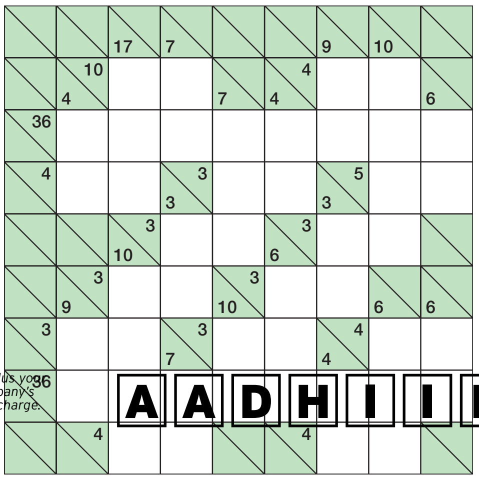
**ACROSS**
- **1** Ridicule (4,3,2)
- **7** Bird enclosure (6)
- **9** Rodents (4)
- **10** Call, Swiss-style (5)
- **12** Milky pudding (4)
- **13** Taint note (anag.) (9)
- **14** Bring up a child (4)
- **16** Finish one's food (3,2)
- **18** Very small quantity (4)
- **19** Outlaw (6)
- **20** Flatfish (5,4)

**DOWN**
- **1** _ Thatcher, former PM (8)
- **2** Flying toy (4)
- **3** Christian festival (6)
- **4** 'Out of the _ and into the fire' (6,3)
- **5** Signal agreement (3)
- **6** US state (6)
- **8** Draw out or lengthen (8)
- **11** Feeling confident and relaxed (2,4)
- **12** Marks (6)
- **15** Extinct bird (4)
- **17** _ Robbins, actor (3)

**Solution tomorrow**

For today's solution call:
**0907 181 2582**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

## KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

**Solution tomorrow**

# Puzzles

**WIN £250**

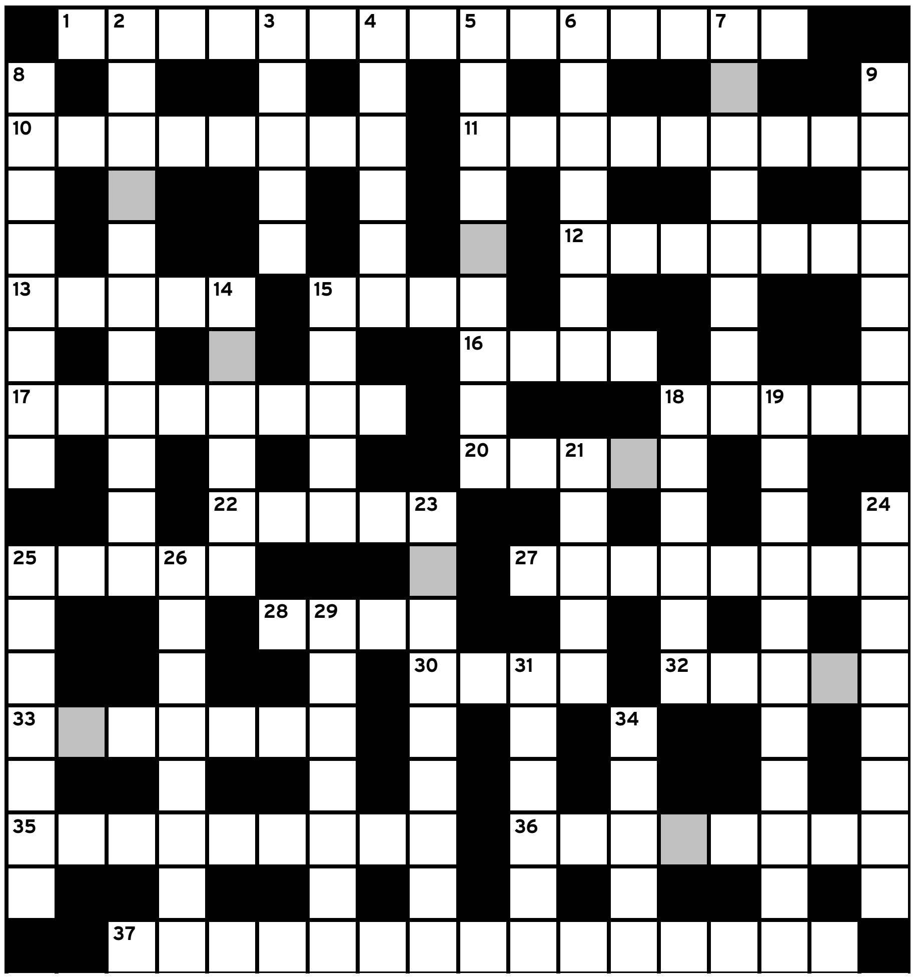
## BIG MONDAY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

1 Self-taught US chemist who discovered the vulcanisation process for rubber in 1839 (7,8)
10 Firm white Cypriot cheese awarded Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status in 2021 (8)
11 The spurge genus of plants, including the pulcherrima (poinsettia) variety (9)
12 Old Testament military leader who was the eldest son of King David's sister Zeruiah (7)
13 Legendary Thracian slave of the 6th century BC regarded as the inventor of the fable (5)
15 Rosaceous fruit whose popular varieties include Anjou and Seckel (4)
16 In Hindustani classical music, the improvised prologue to the performance of a raga (4)
17 Radioactive synthetic chemical element first produced in Japan in 2003; atomic no. 113 (8)
18 Third letter of the Greek alphabet, derived from the Phoenician letter gimel (5)
20 Caribbean country that shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic (5)
22 Hindu goddess of the dawn, whose sister and opposing principle is Ratri (Night) (5)
25 UK pop group who topped the charts with Heartbeat/Tragedy in 1998 and Stomp in 2000 (5)
27 Tallest (but not highest) mountain in the world, on N central Hawaii island (5,3)
28 Second son of Adam and Eve, identified by Jesus (Matthew 23:35) as the first martyr (4)
30 Treacherous ensign of Shakespeare's Othello, married to Desdemona's maidservant Emilia (4)
32 Narrow, typically elongated extension of a flower's ovary that bears the stigma (5)
33 Square clerical cap with three or four raised peaks, black for priests, purple for bishops and red for cardinals (7)
35 Rich French bean and meat stew traditionally said to have originated in the 14th-century Languedoc (9)
36 Longest river of North America, known by nicknames including 'Ol' Man River' and 'Big Muddy' (8)
37 US actress Oscar-nominated for her supporting role in the 1982 musical comedy Victor/Victoria (6,3,6)

### DOWN

2 Region of the sun's influence beyond which interstellar space begins (11)
**3 & 29 Down** French educator who developed a tactile reading and writing system for the visually impaired in 1829 (5,7)
4 French name for Switzerland (6)
5 Coloured print in oil colours designed to imitate an oil painting, also known as a chromolithograph (9)
6 Mild Indian meat or fish curry named from the Hindi for 'two onion' (7)
7 Smallest of the four inner moons of Jupiter, discovered in photographs taken by the Voyager 2 space probe in 1979 (8)
8 Vigilante hero of a novel series by British-Chinese novelist Leslie Charteris (1907-1993); real name, Simon Templar (3,5)
9 Daughter of Mr and Mrs Wormwood in an eponymous 1988 novel by Roald Dahl (7)
14 Mountain range ('the spine of Greece') whose highest peak is Mount Smólikas (6)
15 Part of the body of a marsupial mammal that has the technical name marsupium (5)
18 In Greek mythology, the offspring of Gaia (Earth) and Uranus (Sky) who challenged the supremacy of the Olympian gods (6)
19 First fictional character to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in 1978 (6,5)
21 Fully developed stage of an insect that undergoes metamorphosis, typically winged (5)
23 In taxonomy, the clade to which the order Anura (frogs and toads) belongs; from Latin, 'to leap' (9)
24 Spanish city that held the title of European Green Capital between Tallinn (2023) and Vilnius (2025) (8)
25 Italian aniseed-flavoured liqueur named from the Latin for 'elder tree' (7)
26 Surname of the four siblings whose story is told in The Chronicles Of Narnia by C. S. Lewis (8)
29 See 3
31 Central pin of a sundial whose cast shadow indicates the hour (6)
34 Small southern constellation between Crux and Chamaeleon; the Fly (5)



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ADDRESS

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Leave your answer and details, or text **BIGXWORD** followed by a space, your answer, name and address to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate) or just complete the crossword correctly and send it to: **Daily Express, Prize Crossword (No 1138), PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW** Competition closes Friday, February 6, 2024 at 11:59pm. Winner picked at random from all entry routes after close date. **NEED HELP?** Call **0904 161 1602** for five extra clues! *Calls are £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
*SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.
For any postal enquiries, call this helpline.

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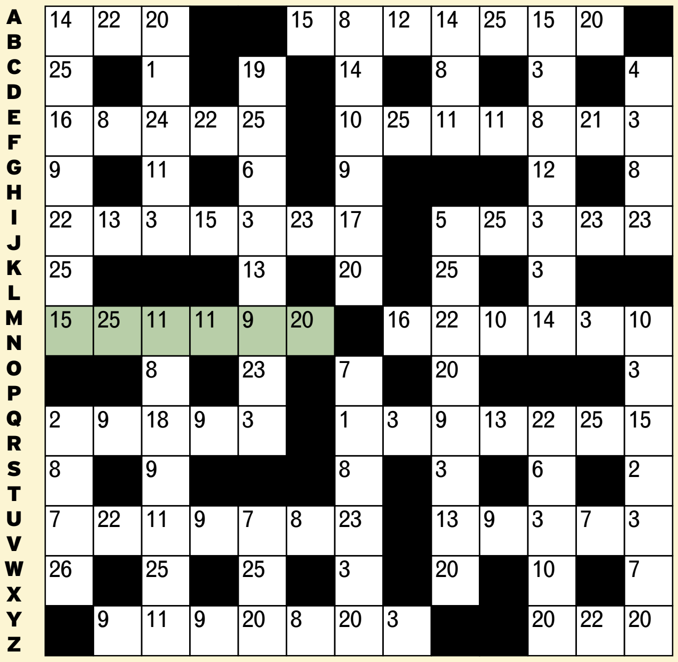
### THE GREAT ALPHAPUZZLE™ TIME CHALLENGE



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 22 | 20 | ■ | ■ | 15 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 25 | 15 | 20 | ■ |
| 25 | ■ | 1 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 14 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 3 | ■ | 4 |
| 16 | 8 | 24 | 22 | 25 | ■ | 10 | 25 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 21 | 3 |
| 9 | ■ | 11 | ■ | 6 | ■ | 9 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 12 | ■ | 8 |
| 22 | 13 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 23 | 17 | ■ | 5 | 25 | 3 | 23 | 23 |
| 25 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 13 | ■ | 20 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 3 | ■ | ■ |
| 15 | 25 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 20 | ■ | 16 | 22 | 10 | 14 | 3 | 10 |
| ■ | ■ | 8 | ■ | 23 | ■ | 7 | ■ | 20 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 18 | 9 | 3 | ■ | 1 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 25 | 15 |
| 8 | ■ | 9 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 8 | ■ | 3 | ■ | 6 | ■ | 2 |
| 7 | 22 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 23 | ■ | 13 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| 26 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 3 | ■ | 20 | ■ | 10 | ■ | 7 |
| ■ | 9 | 11 | 9 | 20 | 8 | 20 | 3 | ■ | ■ | 20 | 22 | 20 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

**WIN £100**

**25 MINUTES**

Can you beat today's time?

TACKLE the Alphapuzzle™ Challenge – and be in with a chance of a £100 cash prize. FIRST, call the number below and note today's CLUE LETTERS and your unique PIN NUMBER to set your personal stop-watch running. Then, use the clue letters to work out the word in the green squares. When you crack the mystery word, call again and enter your pin number to STOP THE CLOCK. Winner selected at random from all correct entrants who beat the 25-minute Target Time. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters of the alphabet are used.

**Solution next Monday**

**0907 181 2908**

YOUR PIN No. _ _ _ _ _ _

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Lines close 23:59 every Sunday.*

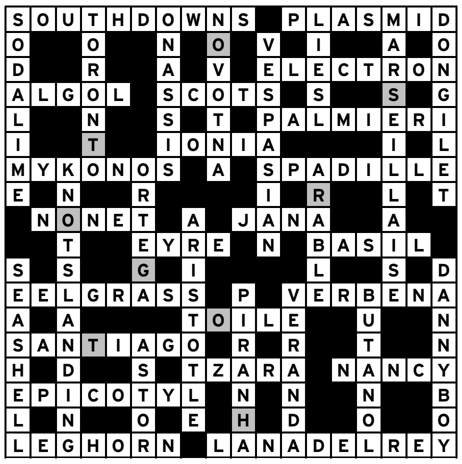
**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION Across:** Shout, Soprano, Until, Upright, Dog, Worm, Lanky, SPARK, Jiffy, Vodka, Scan, Zip, History, Axiom, Sparkle, Tonal. **Down:** Squawk, Pathos, Outcrop, Vista, Told, Gridlock, Ugly, Hazy, Paranoid, Pant, Angry, Fiction, Obtain, Animal.

**£100 Winner (19 Jan):**
D Sheard, Huddersfield.

## BIG MONDAY CROSSWORD SOLUTION AND WINNER

**Monday January 19**

**£250 WINNER:**
D C Perkin, Cheshire.



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | O | U | T | H | D | O | W | N | S | ■ | P | L | A | S | M | I | D |
| O | ■ | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | O | ■ | V | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | A | ■ | O |
| D | ■ | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | A | ■ | V | ■ | E | L | E | C | T | R | O | N |
| A | L | G | O | L | ■ | S | C | O | T | S | ■ | S | ■ | ■ | S | ■ | G |
| L | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | S | ■ | T | ■ | P | A | L | M | I | E | R | I |
| I | ■ | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | I | O | N | I | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | L |
| M | Y | K | O | N | O | S | ■ | A | ■ | S | P | A | D | I | L | L | E |
| E | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | T |
| ■ | N | O | N | E | T | ■ | A | ■ | J | A | N | A | ■ | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | E | Y | R | E | ■ | N | ■ | B | A | S | I | L | ■ |
| S | ■ | S | ■ | ■ | G | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | ■ | S | ■ | D |
| E | E | L | G | R | A | S | S | ■ | P | ■ | V | E | R | B | E | N | A |
| A | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | O | I | L | E | ■ | ■ | U | ■ | ■ | N |
| S | A | N | T | I | A | G | O | ■ | R | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | N |
| H | ■ | D | ■ | ■ | S | ■ | T | Z | A | R | A | ■ | N | A | N | C | Y |
| E | P | I | C | O | T | Y | L | ■ | N | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | B |
| L | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | O | ■ | E | ■ | H | ■ | D | ■ | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | O |
| L | E | G | H | O | R | N | ■ | L | A | N | A | D | E | L | R | E | Y |

# ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

**Solution tomorrow**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Undress | Minor earthquake<br>Of tribes | | Chooses<br>Reveres | | Exact copy | | Sailors | Of Malta | | Tropical fish<br>Wobble | | | | | |
| | | | | | Landed property | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bureaucracy (3,4)<br>Long cars | | | | | | | | _ alone, not to mention | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Second of two | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bolivia (abbr.) | | | | That man<br>Being risked (2,5) | | | | 7th Greek letter<br>Grows older | | | | | | | |
| Opera song | | | | | Stop<br>Housetop | | | | | | Chair carried on poles | | | | |
| Hawaiian garland | | Unknown people<br>Hat type | | | | | | | | | | Black _, police vehicle | | Football's Roy _<br>Frozen missile | |
| | Mexican monetary unit | | | | | Horse | Golf clubs | | Garden tools | Rub out<br>Darner (anag.) | | | | | |
| | Amazed<br>Gemstone | | | | | | | | | | | Ribonucleic acid (abbr.) | | | |
| | | | At a distance<br>Tear | | | | | Formal speech<br>Immense | | | | | | | |
| Charged particle<br>Leave a car | | | | | Rule | | | | | | | Wonderment<br>Fraud | | | |
| | | | | | Wager | US space agency<br>Medium | | | | | Gaelic | | Capital of Georgia | | Whisky grain |
| _ Oliver, chef<br>Circuit | | | | Lowest male voice<br>Reverend (abbr.) | | | | | Delicious drink | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Money | | Drearily | | | | | | |
| | | | | Telephone (abbr.) | | | | Garden hut | _ Daly, pictured | Facial expression<br>_ Vegas, US city | | | | | |
| | | | | Windpipe | Steal cattle<br>Agent | | | | | | | Pitch | | Small brooch or badge | Was seated |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Gratuities | | | | |
| | | | | Exit<br>Drives too fast | | | | | | | Continent | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Rupert _, pictured | | | | | |

# WORDSEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | N | Y | N | O | N | N | A | H | S | C | V | Y | V | V |
| Y | T | A | R | U | R | Q | Z | U | L | O | E | Y | L | E |
| V | A | P | G | R | K | S | U | Y | U | F | O | G | S | I |
| I | W | T | V | A | A | O | D | F | F | Z | D | U | B | G |
| S | Q | A | J | B | L | E | W | I | V | R | O | W | O | N |
| S | I | T | C | H | E | N | L | C | C | A | U | F | Y | B |
| X | O | M | A | E | L | Y | O | F | V | H | L | E | N | K |
| V | Y | R | L | W | M | D | I | P | E | A | L | H | E | P |
| I | P | K | D | R | I | S | I | I | U | M | E | I | C | J |
| W | M | V | E | C | W | F | Q | M | P | N | W | R | D | V |
| T | H | E | R | N | I | D | A | Z | A | A | R | X | T | N |
| A | N | K | R | E | E | A | E | E | V | C | O | G | E | Q |
| L | P | T | T | S | D | N | R | G | F | V | D | N | G | M |
| G | O | J | J | I | E | O | H | U | R | V | Y | C | F | K |
| J | T | L | O | L | W | Y | N | C | F | T | E | L | T | U |

**RIVERS OF THE BRITISH ISLES**

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

**Solution tomorrow**

**BOYNE ● CALDER ● CAM ● CLYDE ● DON**
**FOYLE ● ITCHEN ● LAGAN ● LIFFEY**
**MERSEY ● NENE ● ORWELL ● OUSE**
**SHANNON ● TAY ● TEIFI ● TYNE ● USK**

# FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

## THE ALPHABEATER

**Black squares:** 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 24, 28, 30, 36, 37, 39.
**Across:** Merchant, Bank, Videos, Evade, Debtor, Fillet, Err, Martyr, Expect, Squab, Tahini, Loin, Majestic. **Down:** Mostly, Anathema, Hum, Make, Tatami, Repairer, Size, Hive, Frequent, Dewlap, Bloc, The, Exciting, Gasket.

## THE ALPHAPUZZLE

**Across:** Injury, Safety, Imp, Smut, Acre, Express, Char, Twee, Welds, Avow, Cafe, Realm, Kith, Shot, Antique, Jazz, Vain, Ego, Bedlam, Runner.
**Down:** Crank, Nymph, Irate, About, Utter, Hazel, Yippee, Esteem (clue), Lea, Spread, Liquor, Feast, Seven, Wrath, Three, Olive, Event.

## TV CROSSWORD

**Across:** **5** Carr, **7** Harris, **8** Moore, **11** Skins, **12** Casualty, **13** Stan, **15** Norm, **16** Grammer, **17** Owen, **18** Willan, **21** Road, **22** Mary.
**Down:** **1** Jack, **2** Wilson, **3** Ross, **4** Declan, **5** Capture, **6** Ryan, **9** Scarpetta, **10** Ryder, **14** Jamil, **17** Over, **19** I Am, **20** Amy.

**TV show:** Shedites

## ARROW-WORD

**Across:** Revolt, Erie, Ions, Sift, Adonis, Not, Sale, Beg, Raw, Rossini, Hole up, Ads, Nods, Its, Alto, Mode, Cloth, Hanoi, Matthew, Foe, Step, Urge, Garda, Rise, Veal, Okay, Mary, Weeds.
**Down (left to right):** Ebon, Olaf, Ava, Evensong, Load, Tourer, Orsino, Red letter day, Eli, Fit, Oust, Gal, Tests, Asp, Oche, Laws, Roe, Variation, Trike, Lands, Tone, Sad, Lewis, Phi, Preys.
**Shaded letters:** Longbottom

## WORDS

CLEAR

## MUDDLESOME

Little Children
The Reader
The Holiday

## CLOCK-WISE

Reid, Idea, Each, Chid, Idly, Lyre

## QUIZ OF THE WEEK

**1** 8-bit home computer, **2** Taylor Swift, **3** Buster Merryfield, **4** Liverpool, **5** Dire Straits, **6** Madeira, **7** Predator, **8** Margaret Thatcher, **9** The A-Team, **10** Smallpox.

## DITLOIDS

**1** 10 Events in a Decathlon,
**2** 3 Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome,
**3** 4 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,
**4** 8 Bits in a Byte,
**5** 2 Left Feet,
**6** 1440 Minutes in a Day

## TRIVIA WORDSEARCH

**1** Mediterranean, **2** Amsterdam, **3** Eleven, **4** Ridley Scott, **5** Paris, **6** Wacky Races, **7** Velazquez, **8** Richard, **9** Los Angeles, **10** Albert Camus

## SUMTHING

9x5=45, 5x3=15, 4x8=32

## SMALL CROSSWORD

**Across:** **1** Fishermen, **7** Undo, **8** Loose, **10** Tag, **11** Nearby, **13** Interfere, **14** Fabric, **16** Her, **18** Every, **19** Edge, **20** Disturbed.
**Down:** **1** Furnished, **2** Intend, **3** Hour, **4** Roe, **5** Mothers, **6** Neglected, **8** Library, **9** Matures, **12** Bridge, **15** Beer, **17** Art.

## CROSS DOUBT

**Across:** DIALS
**Down:** AMISS

## SUDOKU EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 |

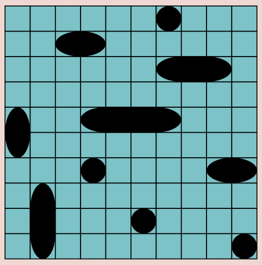
## SUDOKU MEDIUM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 |

## SUDOKU DIFFICULT

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |

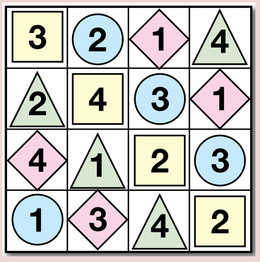
## BATTLESHIPS



## KAKURO

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 4 | | 9 | 4 | | 4 | 1 |
| | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 9 | 2 |
| | | 3 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| | 1 | 8 | | | | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | | 7 | 1 |
| | | 5 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | |
| | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | | 8 | 2 |

## KEIJO



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

## QUICK CROSSWORD

**Across:** **1** Crises, **4** Ledger, **9** Expostulation, **10** Strayed, **11** Patio, **12** Sully, **14** Sever, **18** Nabob, **19** Riposte, **21** Embarrassment, **22** Treble, **23** Lessen.
**Down:** **1** Crease, **2** Imperturbable, **3** Essay, **5** Example, **6** Guiltlessness, **7** Ransom, **8** Guide, **13** Liberal, **15** Invent, **16** Break, **17** Beaten, **20** Paste.

## TARGET

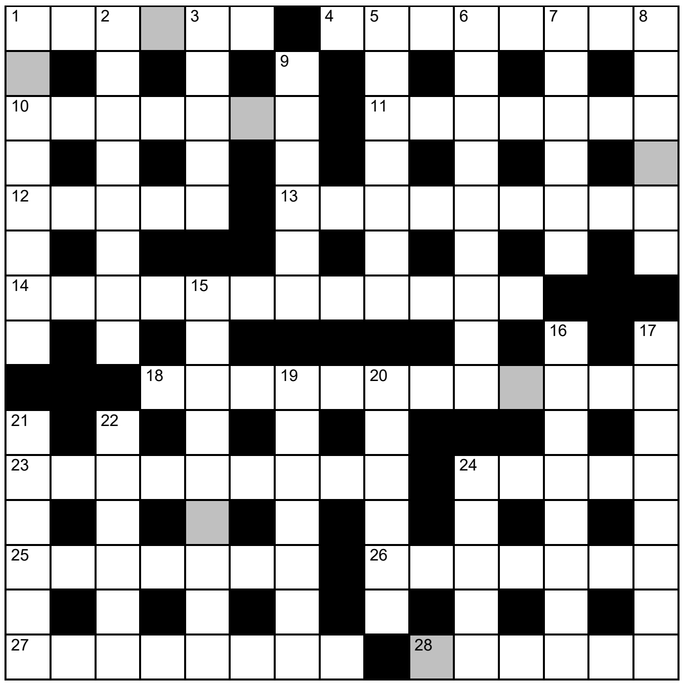
**ULULATING**
agin, align, anti, aunt, gain, gallnut, gaunt, giant, glint, gnat, lain, lang, ling, linga, lingual, lint, lung, lunula, nail, nilgau, null, nutgall, tang, ting, tuna, tung, ulna, ululant, ULULATING, unau, ungual, unit, unlit, until

# Puzzles

## CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**
1 Hat of person who delivers (6)
4 Plot transportation of canes to city (8)
10 Somehow rinsed a fish (7)
11 Hurry to take bib off? Nonsense (7)
12 Mad men following British leader (5)
13 Cautioned about teaching (9)
14 Tending to weaken young woman, I mishandled litigant (12)
18 Little luck, but a great deal of money (5,7)
23 Manage pub in a moustache (9)
24 Slime spread a long way (5)
25 I will join European youngster as criminal (7)
26 Comedian as criminal? Not new (7)
27 Dog, alias ant hybrid (8)
28 Copied once, worked around large note (6)

**DOWN**
1 Nosy parker in hectic organisation (8)
2 Drawback finding dress in cupboard (8)
3 Surprised if you included school (5)
5 Racing track followed by electric current (7)
6 Simple decision, not having an organ (2-7)
7 Almost bringing up dried fruit (6)
8 Performing assistant is ready (2,4)
9 Cited problem, including English fraud (6)
15 Left in the morning – difficulty getting illumination (9)
16 Projectile at home makes the news (8)
17 Deleted score – end changed (8)
19 Throw a lie about flower (7)
20 Search intended to take a long time (6)
21 Worried as he went around one large woman (6)
22 Ask Len about joints (6)
24 Glum, struggling around old tycoon (5)



WIN £100 CASH

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN**
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

**TO ENTER:** Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, February 2, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by February 3 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

**NEED HELP?** Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

### LAST THURSDAY'S SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 1 Numerical, 6 Ages, 10 Basel, 11 Pasturage, 12 Lunette, 13 Take aim, 14 Television set, 17 Cocktail dress, 21 Holdall, 22 Culprit, 24 Gladstone, 25 Glove, 26 Null, 27 First mate. **DOWN:** 1 Nobility, 2 Meson, 3 Relative clause, 4 Cypress, 5 Lesotho, 7 Guarantee, 8 Steamy, 9 Turkish Delight, 15 Local call, 16 As it were, 18 Told off, 19 In clear, 20 Shogun, 23 Rioja.
**Prizeword:** Attract

## TARGET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| L | E | A |
| E | B | X |
| T | I | C |

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

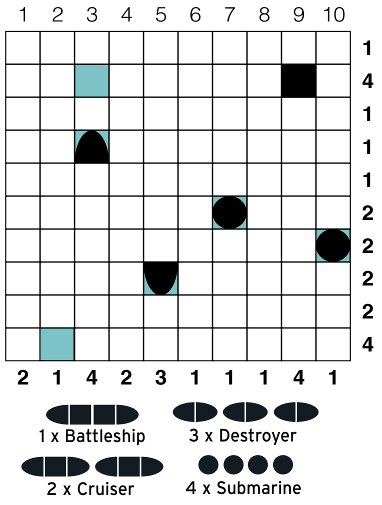
**HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?**
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

**TODAY'S TARGET**
**Good** 12; **very good** 18; **excellent** 24 **(or more).** **Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

## BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
**Solution tomorrow**



## THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 30 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
**Solution tomorrow**

Extra letter clues
**0907 181 2560**
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
**0907 181 2558**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A B | 31 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 37 | 39 | 1 | 5 | 27 | 18 | 6 | 39 | 3 |
| ~~C~~ D | 36 | 16 | 26 | 14 | 4 | 18 | 19 | 2 | 32 | 13 | 30 | 40 | 2 |
| E F | 30 | 15 | 15 | 39 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 25 | 27 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 32 |
| G H | 34 | 14 | 37 | 12 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 39 | 38 | 29 | 9 | 36 | 3 |
| I J | 31 | 5 | 30 | 28 | 40 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 33 | 9 | 22 | 2 | 26 |
| K L | 5 | 8 | 32 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 18 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 6 |
| M N | 30 | 10 | 24 | 39 | 11 | 24 | 19 | 30 | 30 | 21 | 31 | 17 | 2 |
| O P | 37 | 34 | 1 | 28 | 38 | 29 | 39 | 29 | 12 | 18 | 22 | 38 | 32 |
| Q R | 24 | 28 | 39 | 39 | 35 | 39 | 37 | 31 | 36 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 21 |
| S T | 2 | 40 | 23 | 16 | 17 | 11 | 29 | 38 | 5 | 16 | 23 | 36 | 27 |
| U V | 3 | 34 | 26 | 34 | 8 | 22 | 27 | 13 | 2 | 31 | 26 | 39 | 37 |
| W X | 39 | 14 | 24 | 5 | 9 | 39 | 15 | 12 | 35 | 8 | 39 | 10 | 1 |
| ~~Y~~ ~~Z~~ | 31 | 5 | 20 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 40 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 37 | 9 | 33 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | ■ | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | Y |

| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | C | | | | | | | | | | | | | Z | | | | | |

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

## WORD BUILDER

**Solution tomorrow**

Answer the clues so that each word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ☐ ☐ ☐ | 1 Foot digit |
| 2 | ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ | 2 Memo |
| 3 | ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ | 3 Opera singer |
| 4 | ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ | 4 Ice cream |
| 5 | ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ | 5 Right-hand page |
| 6 | ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ | 6 Neck ring |
| 7 | ☐ ☐ ☐ | 7 Crib |

## THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

**Alphapuzzle®** tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**

**DIFFICULTY:** 7/10; **TARGET:** 24 mins; **CLUE:** Little one is second best in inlet.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A B | ■ | 7 | ■ | 20 | ■ | 1 | ■ | 26 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 26 | ■ |
| C D | ■ | 16 | 22 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 14 | 24 | ■ | 25 | 24 | 24 | 21 |
| ~~E~~ F | ■ | 2 | ■ | 16 | ■ | 20 | ■ | 22 | ■ | 10 | ■ | 10 | ■ |
| G H | 11 | 4 | 12 | 15 | ■ | 15 | 24 | 24 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 24 | 10 |
| I J | ■ | 12 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 6 | ■ | 4 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 12 | ■ |
| ~~K~~ L | 3 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 24 | ■ | 15 | 10 | 16 | 21 | 6 | 24 |
| M N | ■ | ■ | ■ | 9 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | 24 | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| O P | 20 | 26 | 10 | 12 | 18 | 6 | ■ | 19 | 24 | 10 | 24 | 20 | 23 |
| Q R | ■ | 3 | ■ | 10 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 24 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 19 | ■ |
| S T | 12 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 13 | 16 | 26 | ■ | 25 | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| U V | ■ | 21 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 15 | ■ | 12 | ■ | 24 | ■ |
| W X | 19 | 24 | 24 | 6 | ■ | 10 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 25 | 3 | 18 | ■ |
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DAILY EXPRESS

# Fever Pitch

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WEEKEND FOOTBALL: ACTION, REACTION & ANALYSIS

**IT'S A BEES KNEES-UP** Dango Ouattara celebrates with Mathias Jensen

## Ouattara and VAR deal huge blow to Villa's title dream

REPORT: PAGES 2-3

**AGONY** Tammy Abraham saw a goal ruled out by VAR on his 'second debut' for Villa

# YOU'VE BEEN DANGO'D

## WILLIAMS SEES RED BUT FOREST MAKE THEIR POINT - PAGES 4-5

## EUROSPOT

# ENGLAND WORRY OVER JUDE'S KO

**REAL MADRID 2**
**RAYO VALLECANO 1**

*Spanish La Liga*

BY **JAMES WHALING**

JUDE BELLINGHAM has given England a huge World Cup injury scare.

The Real Madrid star left the pitch in tears after injuring his hamstring just eight minutes into the 2-1 win over Rayo Vallecano.

With the World Cup finals just a few months away, the 22-year-old Three Lions star pulled up while running on to a through ball (above).

Real Madrid boss Alvaro Arbeloa said it was too soon to offer any long-term prognosis but that he would definitely miss their next game against Valencia on Sunday.

Bellingham's replacement, Brahim Diaz, helped Real take the lead with an assist for Vinicius Junior. Vallecano hit back shortly after half-time though Jorge de Frutos.

Pathe Ciss's 80th-minute red card reduced Rayo to 10 men and Pep Chavarria was red-carded after Kylian Mbappe's injury-time winner.

# FLARE-UP MARS EASY INTER WIN

**CREMONESE 0**
**INTER MILAN 2**

*Serie A*

BY **DARREN WELLS**

INTER MILAN opened up an eight-point lead at the top of Serie A last night but their win was spoiled when a flare thrown by their fans struck Cremonese's goalkeeper.

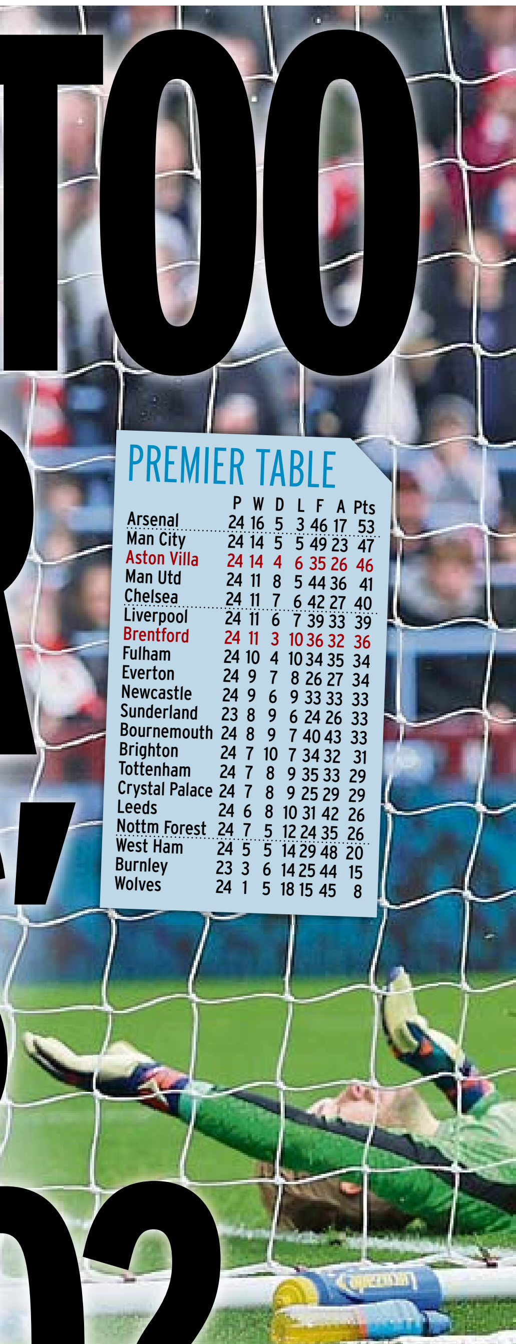
Lautaro Martinez's 13th league goal of the season and a 25-yard rocket from Piotr Zielinski saw Inter earn a routine victory at Jamie Vardy's side.

It stretched Inter's unbeaten league run to 11 matches, 10 of those victories, which has strengthened their title charge and put pressure on closest rivals AC Milan ahead of their clash at Bologna tomorrow.

But the match was overshadowed when Inter fans launched the flare, hitting Cremonese keeper Emil Audero (above). It caused a significant delay but Audero did continue after suffering minor leg injuries.

Elsewhere, Atalanta drew 0-0 at Como, while fifth-placed Roma travel to Udinese tonight.

# BRIDGE TOO VAR FOR VILLANS' TITLE BID?



PREMIER TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 24 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 46 | 17 | 53 |
| Man City | 24 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 49 | 23 | 47 |
| Aston Villa | 24 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 35 | 26 | 46 |
| Man Utd | 24 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 44 | 36 | 41 |
| Chelsea | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 42 | 27 | 40 |
| Liverpool | 24 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 39 | 33 | 39 |
| Brentford | 24 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 36 | 32 | 36 |
| Fulham | 24 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 34 | 35 | 34 |
| Everton | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 27 | 34 |
| Newcastle | 24 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Sunderland | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 26 | 33 |
| Bournemouth | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 40 | 43 | 33 |
| Brighton | 24 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 34 | 32 | 31 |
| Tottenham | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 35 | 33 | 29 |
| Crystal Palace | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 25 | 29 | 29 |
| Leeds | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 42 | 26 |
| Nottm Forest | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 35 | 26 |
| West Ham | 24 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 29 | 48 | 20 |
| Burnley | 23 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 25 | 44 | 15 |
| Wolves | 24 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 45 | 8 |

**OUATSTANDING**
Dango Ouattara scores a stunning goal to claim a shock win over Villa

**ASTON VILLA 0**
**BRENTFORD 1**

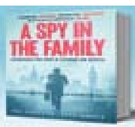
BY **JONATHAN VEAL**

**ASTON VILLA's Premier League title hopes suffered a major blow as they were controversially denied a goal by VAR in a 1-0 home defeat to 10-man Brentford.**

Tammy Abraham's second-half strike was chalked off after VAR Paul Tierney ruled the ball had gone out of play 19 seconds earlier, when Villa had it near their own corner flag.

The official made the decision after a check which took over three minutes, with Brentford going on to see out the victory despite playing for over 45 minutes with 10 men.

Dango Ouattara scored the decisive goal in first-half stoppage time, just minutes after Kevin Schade had been sent off for kicking out at Matty



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Checking Goal
Possible Ball Out Of Play
VAR

**VIDEO NASTY**
Abraham's debut strike was chalked off by VAR check

PREMIER LEAGUE

| ASTON VILLA | | BRENTFORD |
|---|---|---|
| 72% | POSSESSION | 28% |
| 5 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 2 |
| 11 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 4 |
| 635 | TOTAL PASSES | 255 |
| 88% | PASSING SUCCESS | 73% |
| 12 | CORNERS | 1 |
| 1 | OFFSIDE | 6 |
| 8 | FOULS | 8 |
| 🟥 0 🟨 0 | CARDS | 🟨 3 🟥 1 |

**REF:** Tim Robinson **ATT:** 41,415

MAN OF THE MATCH
CAOIMHIN KELLEHER

# Brilliant Bees hold on with 10 men after Abraham's agony

Cash. The Bees produced a fine defensive performance after the break and condemned Villa to a second successive home league defeat, which probably ends any realistic hopes of challenging for the title.

Villa boss Unai Emery (circle, left) said: "They competed fantastically. We tried everything but they have the habit to defend with their experience in the Premier League.

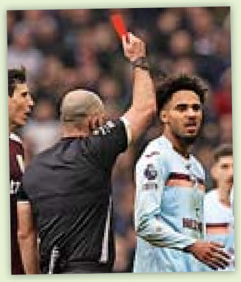
"When they needed to play defensively, they did fantastic. They were resilient and we tried everything."

It marked another big win in an impressive season for Keith Andrews' side, who are firmly in the race for European football next term.

Villa handed a second debut to Abraham, seven years after his loan spell from Chelsea, and his first appearance in English football since May 2021.

It was almost the perfect homecoming for the former Chelsea and Roma striker as he was put through on goal in the 15th minute by Morgan Rogers' pass, but his punted finish was straight at Bees goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

The hosts continued to threaten as Ian Maatsen hit a cushioned drive just over before Ezri Konsa missed a great chance in the 32nd minute, getting his finish all wrong from close range after Douglas Luiz's free-kick found him in acres of space.



Brentford's task appeared to get much harder three minutes before the break when Schade was sent off (left) for foolishly kicking out at Cash after the pair got tangled.

But four minutes later the Bees stunned Villa by taking the lead.

Kristoffer Ajer's long ball sent Ouattara clear down the right. His cross was blocked by Pau Torres, but it went straight back to him and he lashed into the top corner from a tight angle.

Abraham thought he had got his goal four minutes after the restart as he converted from the rebound after Jadon Sancho's effort had been parried by Kelleher.

But after a forensic VAR analysis, it was disallowed after Leon Bailey was adjudged to have taken the ball out of play way back in his own half. Villa felt a raging sense of injustice and camped in the Brentford half looking for a way through.

Cash fired an attempt straight at Kelleher, who also got down well to deny Rogers, while Luiz headed over.

Their golden chance to level came in the 90th minute as Bailey cut inside and looked set to score but blazed over.

Brentford held on for 10 minutes of stoppage time to secure a memorable victory.

Bees boss Andrews said: "We knew we'd have to defend for large parts of the game. We got the goal, which was amazing, we always have that threat.

"I feel like it is a result we deserved and what we created in the second half, I thought a

**ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1):** Martinez; Cash, Konsa, Torres, Maatsen; Douglas Luiz, Bogarde (Bailey 46); Sancho (Elliott 77), Rogers, Buendia; Abraham.
**BRENTFORD (4-2-3-1):** Kelleher; Kayode, Ajer, Van den Berg, Henry (Hickey 84); Henderson (Collins 59), Janelt; Ouattara (Yarmolyuk 60), Jensen (Lewis-Potter 76), Schade; Thiago.

## EMERY: UNFAIR TO DISALLOW TAMMY GOAL

**UNAI EMERY slammed VAR's 'unfair' decision to rule out Tammy Abraham's equaliser.**

**Abraham (circle) saw his second-half strike chalked off after VAR Paul Tierney ruled the ball had gone out of play 19 seconds earlier, when Aston Villa had it near their own corner flag.**

**The official made the decision, which the Premier League said was "factual", after a check which took over three minutes. Emery fumed: "It is not fair. The referee is not watching it. Maybe there are a lot of actions and circumstances that can change a goal. I accept it completely. It is not fair, but I accept it.**

**"The referees are so, so demanding in trying to correct everything they are doing, or where they can improve. My explanation is it is one action after a long time. If the assistant referee did not see it, we must continue playing.**

**"For VAR, it is difficult to analyse, and so tight as well. The problem is the VAR should not be asking in this situation.**

**"We are frustrated, disappointed, as well with the referee and VAR for his decision. But maybe sometimes we can win matches like that."**

# MORE BLACK CLOUDS FOR SKY BLUES

| | |
|---|---|
| QPR | 2 |
| COVENTRY | 1 |

*Championship*

MATT GRIMES insists Coventry have got what it takes to end the Championship choker-chat.

Frank Lampard's men looked like clinching the title at a canter when they surged into a 10-point lead in November.

But a fourth straight defeat on the road leaves them top only on goal difference from Middlesbrough, who are due at the CBS Arena for the mother of all six-pointers later this month.

Josh Eccles gave the Sky Blues the lead, but they couldn't stem a stirring Rangers comeback to leave Lampard's stuttering side with four wins from the last 13.

Grimes (above) admits Coventry are going through their toughest spell of the season, but the experienced midfielder is confident they can come through the other side to avoid one of the biggest bottle-jobs in EFL history.

The 30-year-old said: "We're in a bad spell. Everyone can see we're not picking up enough points away from home. We're in a tough period and we have to show character to get out of it.

"It's such a gruelling league and because you're top you've got a target on your back so we have to embrace that challenge.

"We've given ourselves an incredible opportunity and we're more than capable of getting the job done."

Coventry face Oxford and Boro in back-to-back home games and boss Lampard admitted: "It's been a difficult period.

"We have to be defiant. Are we going to feel sorry for ourselves being top of the league? That would be nonsense."

Richard Kone levelled from Nicolas Madsen's cross before the Danish midfielder grabbed a late winner.

A first win in five leaves Rangers four points off the top six, and Madsen insisted: "We deserved the win.

"To beat the league leaders from behind says it all. The spirit was great and we can be proud of ourselves."

WAR BABIES
THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN OF WWII
ON SALE IN ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON
AMAZON

# WINDASS: WREX IN FULL CONTROL

| | |
|---|---|
| **SHEFF WEDS** | **0** |
| **WREXHAM** | **1** |

*Championship*

ICE-COLD Josh Windass fired a message to the Owls after helping to freeze out his old club.

Wrexham climbed back into the play-off places with a hard-fought seventh win in the last nine games thanks to Sam Smith's sixth goal of the campaign (right).

Windass bagged 50 goals in six seasons at Hillsborough before jumping ship to join the North Wales revolution last summer.

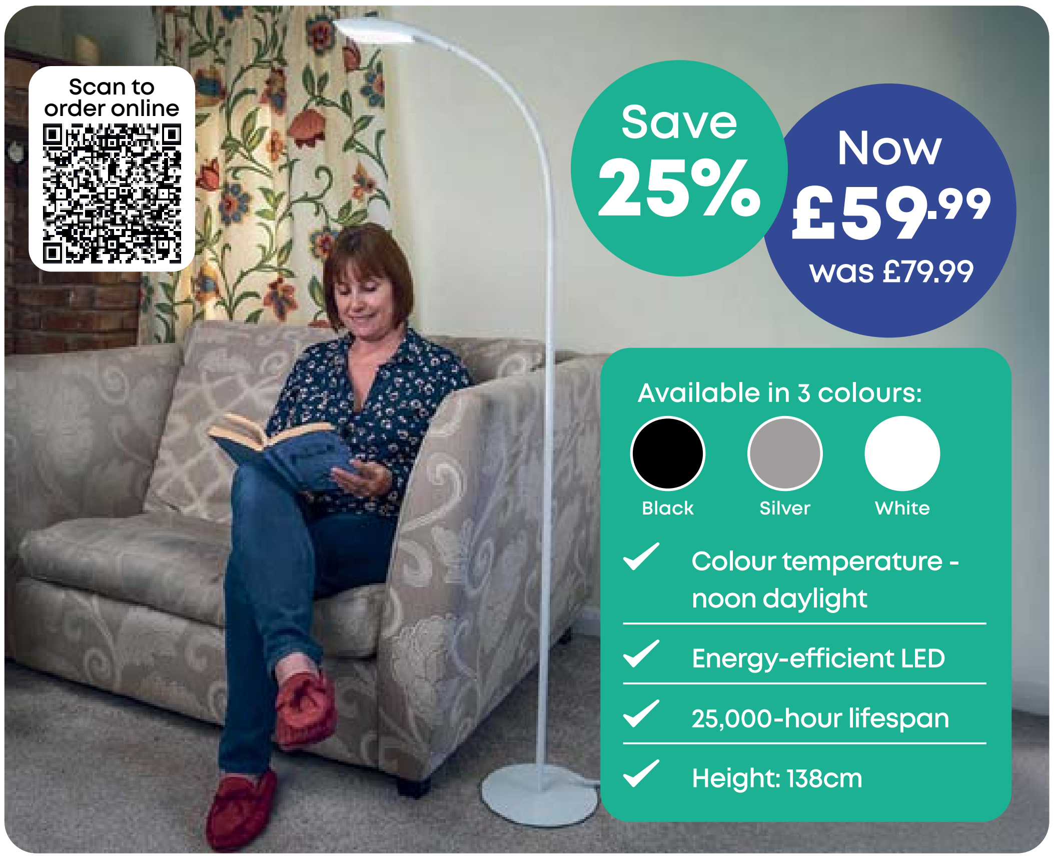
There's clearly no love lost between the 32-year-old and his former club and after back-to-back victories for Phil Parkinson's side, he said: "It's just a normal game to me to be honest

"I'm with Wrexham now. I've got a new bunch of team-mates and I want to win games with them. We played really well, created a lot of chances and it could have been more. They were difficult to break down but we were always in control."

Smith's fourth goal of the month marked the striker's first anniversary since joining from Reading. The 27-year-old said: "It was all about taking that chance when it came."

A sixth straight defeat and club record-extending 23rd league game without a win leaves the rock-bottom Owls 39 points adrift of safety.

Boss Henrik Pedersen said: "We had chances to equalise."



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# PAIN IN

## Williams sees red but Forest cling on

## DYCHE: WE WIN IT WITH 11

BY **SUNNY BADWAL**

SEAN DYCHE insists it was a point gained for Nottingham Forest after playing the second half with 10 men.

Neco Williams was sent off for adeliberate handball with Crystal Palace scoring from the penalty spot.

That was after Morgan Gibbs-White had given the hosts a fifth-minute lead.

Forest are now unbeaten in their last four and have moved six points above the bottom three.

And with 10 men, Dyche (right) believes it is a point gained.

He said: "It has to be a point earned, it's not easy playing 10 v 11 particularly in the Premier League, and well earned.

"The only disappointing thing is if (Williams) doesn't handball it – 11 v 11 I fancy us to win it.

"It's clear handball but I think it's just an instinctive thing. Neco's been tremendous since I've been here. I thought the players were terrific.

"We are linked with loads of players so we will see which ones we can land. There are two or three I know of but that doesn't mean we will get them."

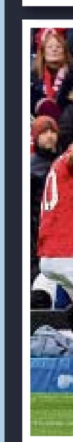
Gibbs-White agreed with Dyche's assessment, adding: "It felt like we could have taken all three today.

"We dominated in the first half and we went one man down. It was Neco's natural instinct and he apologised to us all. It's not his fault.

"The gaffer said we have to stick together, run together and work as a team. To stay defensive and then go for the attack.

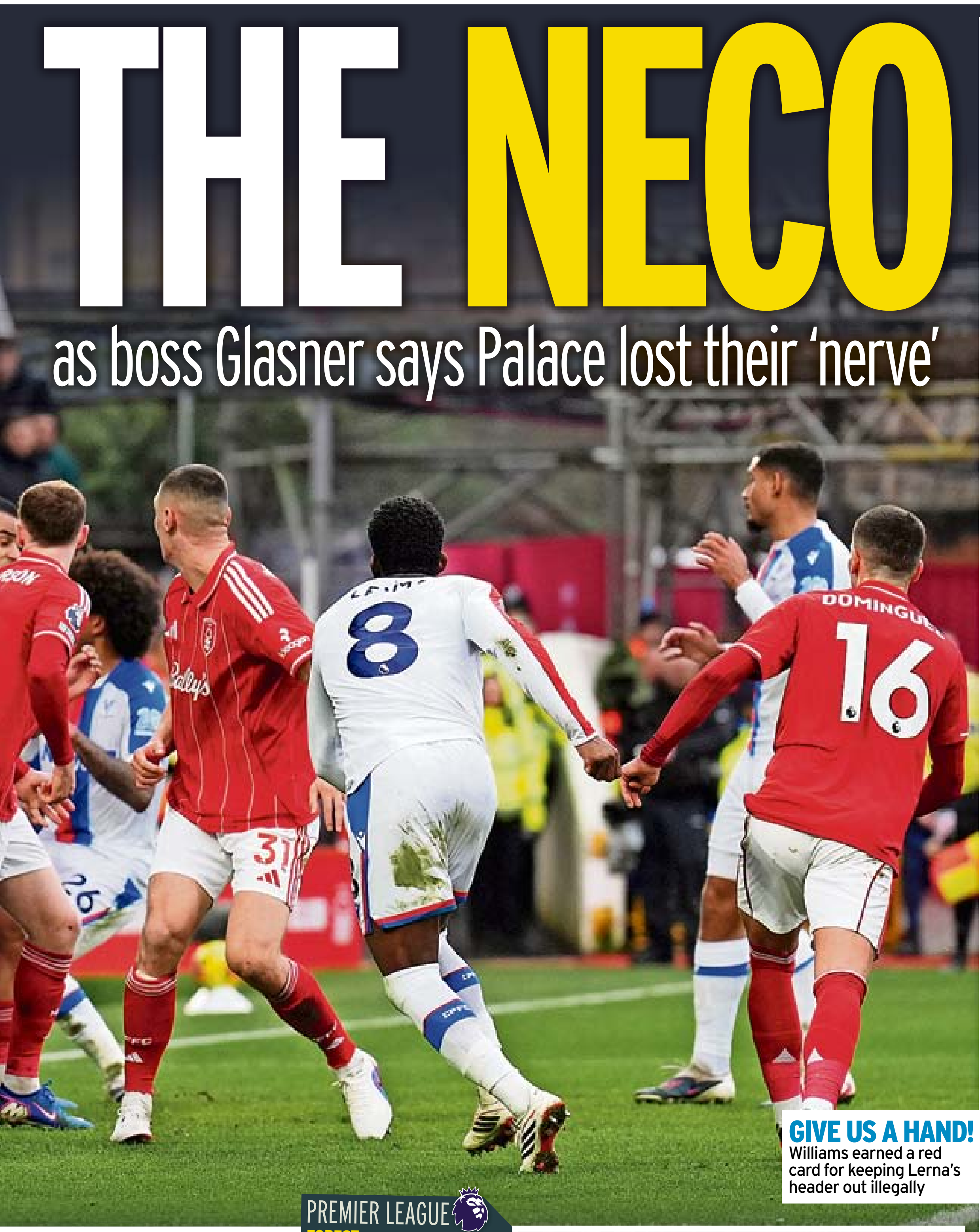
"We did that perfectly.

"We have to keep looking forward and that won't change but we have to be mindful."



# THE NECO

## as boss Glasner says Palace lost their ‘nerve’



**GIVE US A HAND!**
Williams earned a red card for keeping Lerna’s header out illegally

PREMIER LEAGUE

| FOREST | | PALACE |
|---|---|---|
| 33% | POSSESSION | 67% |
| 1 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 3 |
| 5 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 8 |
| 282 | TOTAL PASSES | 566 |
| 73% | PASSING SUCCESS | 85% |
| 5 | CORNERS | 7 |
| 2 | OFFSIDE | 0 |
| 4 | FOULS | 12 |
| 🟥 1 🟨 1 | CARDS | 🟨 3 🟥 0 |

**REF:** Tony Harrington **ATT:** 30,334

**MAN OF THE MATCH**
**ELLIOT ANDERSON**

**A SARR THING**
Ismaila Sarr celebrates scoring Palace’s equaliser from the penalty spot

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
## CRYSTAL PALACE 1

BY **SUNNY BADWAL**

**NECO WILLIAMS would have been the most relieved man at the City Ground yesterday.**

The Nottingham Forest full-back produced the save of the game and saw red for his deliberate handball.

But Forest held on against Crystal Palace, who picked up just their third point from nine games which have seen them drop down into the relegation battle.

Forest got off to a flying start when Morgan Gibbs-White struck his sixth goal of the season. But the game turned at the end of the half when Williams was shown a red card for stopping Jefferson Lerma’s header from going in with a deliberate handball.

Ismaila Sarr rolled in the resulting penalty. Palace were disappointing after the break and it looked like Forest would get the winner following a chaotic ending. But both sides moved a point further clear of the bottom three.

Palace boss Oliver Glasner (below) said: “We played a fantastic first half. We controlled the game for the first 10-15 minutes in the second half but we lost our nerve.

“I could see the effort and I learned to respect the point when I came here. You could see the weight on the players’ shoulders.”

Sarr started up front for the visitors who were without top scorer Jean-Philippe Mateta ahead of a likely move away from Selhurst Park.

The two clubs have not seen eye to eye since Palace were demoted to the Conference League with Forest taking their place in the Europa League.

Palace posed the first threat when Ola Aina gifted the ball to Yeremy Pino who set off a counter-attack and Matz Sels made a smart save to tip Lerma’s strike round the post.

Forest wanted a penalty when Igor Jesus thought he was brought down by Chris Richards inside the area but referee Tony Harrington waved play on.

The penalty shouts mattered very little a minute later as the hosts hit the front.

A long throw caused a scramble inside the penalty area but Gibbs-White showed the only bit of quality to bring the ball down and slot home.

Palace remained a threat going forward and Pino slipped the ball through to Sarr, but he decided to play it back across goal to no one rather than shoot.

Palace were handed a way back in when Williams made a desperate save with his hand on the line to stop Lerma’s header from going in.

Williams was sent off and Sarr stepped up to score.

Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson added: “We had it a couple of times last season when they sit and it’s attack v defence. Sit in and don’t give away, they did that well.

“I thought the lads did really well. They pushed to the last and it’s important we have the lads in the dressing room to keep showing up for the badge.”

**FOREST:** Sels (Gunn 46), Aina, Milenkovic, Murillo, Williams; Sangare, Anderson, Hudson-Odoi (Yates 46), Gibbs-White, Dominguez (Morato 48), Igor Jesus (Ndoye 70)

**PALACE:** Henderson, Richards, Lacroix, Riad (Uche 61); Munoz, Hughes, Lerma, Mitchell, Sarr, Johnson, Pino

# HAYDEN HITS WINNER BUT WANTS MORE

## MIDDLESBROUGH 1
## NORWICH 0

*Championship*

HAYDEN HACKNEY has demanded six of the best from in-form Middlesbrough.

Boro turned up the heat on Coventry, drawing level on points with the leaders thanks to a fifth straight win sealed by the England Under-21 international’s stunning first-half strike.

The Teessiders trailed Frank Lampard’s side by 10 points before Christmas but the table looks a lot different now as they gear-up to travel to the stuttering table-toppers later this month, in a clash that will go a long way to deciding the make-up of the top two in May.

Boro did their promotion hopes a power of good by rebuffing Premier League interest in their star midfielder in January.

And after his fifth goal of the campaign, Hackney said: “We’re just keeping the momentum going.

“It’s five wins in a row now and we want to make it six.

“We’re absolutely buzzing with a great three points. In the end it was about grinding it out and we did that very well.

“We pressed them from the front and the lads up there did that perfectly.

“A lot of chances arrived that way and the goal came from us pressing high because we knew they were going to try and play out.

“It came to me on the edge of the box and I just thought I’d hit it and luckily enough it went in. I don’t think I’ve hit many better than that in my career.”

Jovon Makama spurned late chances for Norwich who are four points above the drop zone after the end of their four-match winning streak.

Boss Philippe Clement said: “I’m gutted because everybody could see we deserved something from the game.

“You could feel the nerves from the home supporters. They’ve watched a lot of games this season where their team has been dominant but that wasn’t the case here.

There are ways of losing and we lost this one with pride and honour.”

# ADAMS LOVING LIFE ON THE COAST

| | |
|---|---|
| **PORTSMOUTH** | **3** |
| **WEST BROM** | **0** |

*Championship*

EBOU ADAMS is enjoying Portsmouth's scrap for Championship survival.

The midfielder scored his second goal in three starts since joining from Derby to help push John Mousinho's Pompey four points clear of danger as they leap-frogged woeful West Brom.

Adams (right) is loving life on the south coast and, after adding to first-half strikes from Conor Chaplin and Millenic Alli to make it four games unbeaten, the 30-year-old said: "I enjoyed myself out there and I'm sure the rest of the boys felt the same.

"The gaffer has given me a role where I can get myself into the box and try to get goals. That's the licence I have. It's a massive win for us and the first thing we need to remember is that we're a good team.

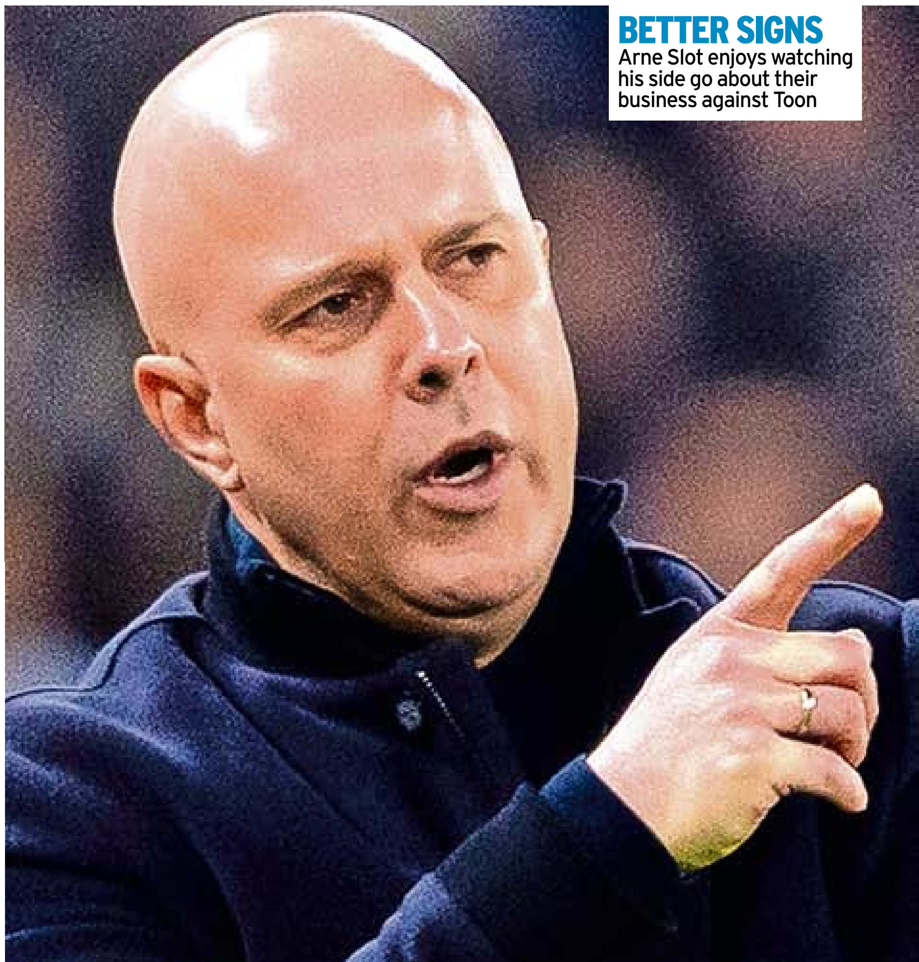
"A performance like that is very much overdue and if we keep playing that way, then we're going to be okay. The big question is whether we can do it continuously?

"We showed no fear and it just highlights that we can mix things up and have plenty of confidence – which is a big thing in this game."

The abject Baggies are in freefall after sliding to a fifth defeat in six and an 11th in 12 on the road.

The appointment of the inexperienced Eric Ramsay has still to bring a win.

He said: "We have to own the performance and take accountability. We have to get better."



**BETTER SIGNS**

Arne Slot enjoys watching his side go about their business against Toon

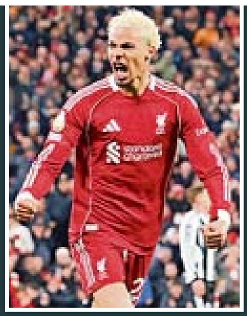
PREMIER LEAGUE

| LIVERPOOL | | NEWCASTLE |
|---|---|---|
| 54% | POSSESSION | 46% |
| 7 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 2 |
| 7 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 3 |
| 412 | TOTAL PASSES | 326 |
| 84% | PASSING SUCCESS | 80% |
| 7 | CORNERS | 11 |
| 1 | OFFSIDES | 3 |
| 11 | FOULS | 7 |
| 🟥 0 🟨 1 | CARDS | 🟨 3 🟥 0 |

**REF:** Simon Hooper

**MAN OF THE MATCH**

**HUGO EKITIKE**



# 'SLOPPY' TOON TRIPP-ED UP BADLY

BY **ANDY DUNN**

KIERAN TRIPPIER admitted Newcastle lacked composure during a startling collapse at Anfield.

Eddie Howe's side were deservedly ahead through an Anthony Gordon strike as the clock ticked towards half-time but two goals in quick succession from Hugo Ekitike sparked a Liverpool comeback that ended with an emphatic win.

And Trippier (right) said: "We are really disappointed. The goals we conceded were sloppy from our perspective.

"When you come to Anfield, you know you are going to have to deal with the pressure that Liverpool gives you and we need to be more composed, more calm.

"We are all frustrated and disappointed with how we conceded the goals.

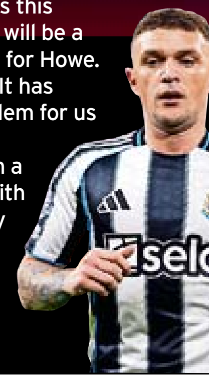
"But there's no time to dwell on it. We have got another massive game coming up and February is going to be a hectic schedule. It's relentless but we are not making any excuses."

Newcastle go to Manchester City for the second leg of their Carabao Cup semi-final on Wednesday and, after next Saturday's home game against Brentford, they have successive away fixtures against Spurs, Aston Villa, Qarabag and then City again.

And considering they have only three wins on the road in all competitions this season, this will be a testing time for Howe.

He said: "It has been a problem for us all season.

"We are in a tough run with a lot of away fixtures so we have to keep looking for solutions."



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# THAT'S A SLOT MORE LIKE IT

## Everything falls into place as Arne finally enjoys comeback win

**LIVERPOOL 4**
**NEWCASTLE 1**

BY **ANDY DUNN**

**AFTER what became an emotional night, Arne Slot could reflect on the latest win over Newcastle as one of the most satisfying performances this season.**

With his classy goals, Hugo Ekitike underlined his potential to become a talismanic striker and, with his neat finish and accomplished assist, the acclimatisation of Florian Wirtz to the demands of the Premier League continued.

Then, of course, there was the poignancy of Ibrahima Konate (inset, top) scoring on his return to the team after the passing of his father. It was a special moment.

And for Slot, there was also the satisfaction of seeing his team come back to win a Premier League game after going behind for the first time since the 5-1 win over Spurs sealed the title in late April of last year. But there were also other aspects of the display that should please Slot.

Not everything went right for Mo Salah but he always posed a threat, distracting Newcastle defenders and setting up the Wirtz strike.

And while the man himself has only been responsible for one of them, Liverpool have scored 15 goals in the four games in which Salah has played since returning from Africa Cup of Nations duty.

In the seven games he missed, Liverpool scored just 11 times.

That is no coincidence.

And Salah even did the odd bit of defensive duty to help out Slot's makeshift right-back. Not that Dominik Szoboszlai needed a great deal of help.

Arguably Liverpool's best player of the season so far, Szoboszlai put in another impressive performance in a position that is clearly not to his liking.

"This is not even medium-term, to be honest, in my head," he said. "I'm a midfielder and hopefully our right-back is going to come back from injury and I can get back in the middle."

The Hungarian's emergence as a key Anfield figure – there are plenty of people within the club who see him as a future captain – surely means a new contract will be sorted shortly.

But even though talks have been ongoing, Szoboszlai is clearly not overly bullish about them being conclusive any time soon.

When asked if there was any progress on a new deal, Szoboszlai replied: "Nothing yet, to be honest.

"Nothing, from now on it is not in my hands. There is no progression but if the right offer comes, then let's see.

"Right now, I am doing my job on the pitch – we will see in the future.

"I like the city, I like the club, I like playing with these guys, I love Anfield, I love the fans, let's see what the future holds.

"It is not on me. I would love to stay. We will see. It is always there and back and there and back. Let's see what happens."

On the face of it, there seems little for Liverpool supporters or management to fret about, Szoboszlai having more than two years of his current agreement left to run.

But even amidst Liverpool's disappointing defence of their Premier League title, the 25-year-old is establishing himself as one of Europe's pre-eminent midfielders.

There has been talk in Spain of Real Madrid having a serious interest and Szoboszlai is probably not even among Liverpool's top 10 earners right now.

You suspect that needs changing pretty soon.

**LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1):** Alisson; Szoboszlai, Konate, Van Dijk, Kerkez; Gravenberch, Mac Allister; Salah (Chiesa 84), Wirtz (Endo 87), Gakpo; Ekitike (Jones 84).

**NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-3):** Pope; Trippier (Osula 84), Thiaw, Burn, Hall (A Murphy 89); Willock (Woltemade 73), Tonali, Ramsey; Elanga (J Murphy 73), Gordon, Barnes (Wissa 73).

**HUGO'S BOSS**
Hugo Ekitike makes it two and (right) Mo Salah and Florian Wirtz celebrate

# DEBUT HERO KOUMAS IN DREAMLAND

**BLACKBURN 0**
**HULL 1**

*Championship*

LEWIS KOUMAS' dream Hull debut was well worth a sleepless night.

The Liverpool loanee came off the bench to grab a dramatic late winner to keep the promotion-chasing Tigers well in the mix for a top-two finish.

Koumas, 20, was desperate to make a good first impression and revealed he spent a nervous night going through different debut scenarios.

The winger (scoring above) said: "I was thinking about it all last night – about getting a chance when I get on and scoring if that chance came, so I'm just really happy to help us get the three points."

The Tigers can cut the gap to leaders Coventry to two points with a fifth straight win at home to struggling Oxford United tomorrow.

After his latest clean sheet, Hull's Croatian keeper Ivor Pandur said: "We want more and we won't stop.

"We need to keep going and we want to see the fans again in their numbers on Tuesday, we need them all."

Blackburn's Ewood Park woes continued as a fourth defeat in six leaves them three points adrift of safety after just two home wins all season.

Yuki Ohashi and Mathias Jorgensen should have done better with second-half headed opportunities as Rovers missed a chance to climb out of the bottom three – which they can do tomorrow with a win at home to bottom club Sheffield Wednesday.

Frustrated boss Valerien Ismael admitted: "I don't know why it's so complicated. It wasn't about the performance, and it wasn't about the desire or the mentality.

"What we have to complain about is we have to take our chances.

"At some point, you have to take the chance.

"When you dominate the game like this and you're on the front foot, you have to get the reward and to make sure you score the goal."

# EQUALISER A SORE POINT FOR GIBSON

| | |
|---|---|
| IPSWICH | 1 |
| PRESTON | 1 |

*Championship*

LEWIS GIBSON admitted Jack Clarke's controversial late penalty was a "kick in the teeth" for Preston.

Gibson (above) looked to have sealed a first win in five for Paul Heckingbottom's Preston side, thanks to his first goal for 10 months.

But Ipswich winger Clarke levelled from the spot in stoppage-time with his 12th goal of the season after being brought down in the box.

Preston's protests that Town's top scorer had inadvertently made a double contact with his spot kick were waved away by referee John Busby to leave North End in eighth place, three points outside the Championship play-offs.

Gibson, 25, said: "It's a little bit of a kick in the teeth at the end with the penalty so it's mixed emotions, because you can't begrudge a point here.

"We're still a little bit deflated because I thought we probably deserved more against a really good side, and we were probably back to what we've been playing like for most of the season.

"It was a good team performance. We've come off being really good defensively and compact.

"I was delighted to score. I've been out for quite a long time before these last few games so I hope that's the first of many this season."

The Tractor Boys cut the gap to leaders Coventry to seven points with a game in hand - but dropped to fourth after a second match without a win.

Manager Kieran McKenna insisted Gibson's 72nd-minute opener from a corner was lucky, and he said: "It was a tough challenge.

"They came with a game plan to defend really deep and made it really hard for us to break them down.

"They scored their goal from a set play which was a bit lucky in terms of how it fell, but we didn't defend it well enough.

"After that the reaction from the team and the stadium was really good."

# WE'RE FIT FO

**LEED THE WAY** (From top) Zubimendi's opener and Darlow's own goal before Jesus struck

## Saliba insists Gunners can do the impossible by pulling off Quadruple

| | |
|---|---|
| LEEDS UTD | 0 |
| ARSENAL | 4 |

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

**WILLIAM SALIBA insists Arsenal have a 'Quad Squad' with the belief they can sweep the board and re-write history.**

No team has won the Quadruple of Premier League, Champions League and both domestic cups in a season.

But Arsenal are heading into the home straight with a chance to land all four of the trophies they have been competing for. This would see them eclipse the Manchester United and City teams which won Trebles under Sir Alex Ferguson and Pep Guardiola respectively.

There is a reason no side has ever won a Quadruple before – because it remains almost impossible to achieve. But when asked if Mikel Arteta's men thought they were capable, Saliba (left) was in no doubt.

He said: "Yeah, of course, we want to win every competition.

"We have the squad for that, we have the coach for that. So we have to keep going and be focused on every competition."

Arsenal arrived at Elland Road by coach instead of flying up, due to thick fog at Leeds/Bradford Airport. Arteta saw captain Bukayo S out of the game, after s a hip problem in the wa

But once Martin Zu headed them in front minutes, they had lift o

Leeds had lost just t home soil this season a in their past 11 games, were brushed aside w on an afternoon wh promised to be tough.

A shambolic mix-up Karl Darlow and D Calvert-Lewin allowe Madueke's corner to over the line.

Viktor Gyokere substitute Gabriel Jesu two more after the b inflict Leeds' heavies defeat of the season. might be running out c

# UR PURPOSE

**VIKTORY SEALED** Gyokeres stretches to volley in Arsenal's third goal at Elland Road

PREMIER LEAGUE

| LEEDS UTD | | ARSENAL |
|---|---|---|
| 49% | POSSESSION | 51% |
| 1 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 8 |
| 1 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 4 |
| 395 | TOTAL PASSES | 395 |
| 80% | PASSING SUCCESS | 79% |
| 4 | CORNERS | 12 |
| 0 | OFFSIDES | 1 |
| 10 | FOULS | 7 |
| 🟥 0 🟨 1 | CARDS | 🟨 1 🟥 0 |

**REF:** Stuart Attwell **ATT:** 36,858

**MAN OF THE MATCH**
**DECLAN RICE**

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Arsenal
of admirers, due to producing functional rather than fairy-tale football.

This was another display of power, control, set pieces and calm finishing. The perfect response to a blip after three league games without a win.

And whatever the outcome of the title race, Saliba insists Arsenal will stick to doing things their way.

He said: "It was so important to win, because last week we weren't happy with the performance that we did at home.

"We wanted to show that it was just like a mistake that can happen, and now we're back to basics with a good clean sheet against a good team.

"Because it's never easy to win at Elland Road. So, yeah, we are all happy with the performance, defensively and offensively."

Arsenal host Chelsea in the second leg of their League Cup semi final tomorrow. And Saliba knows winning the competition can be a springboard to greatness.

He added: "If we got to the final of the Carabao Cup, it would be the first final of everything. We have to prove it that we want to win everything."

**LEEDS (3-4-2-1):** Darlow; Justin (Longstaff 46), Rodon, Struijk; Bogle, Ampadu, Gruev (Okafor 46), Gudmundsson; Stach (Gnonto 80), Aaronson (Buonanotte 71); Calvert-Lewin (Piroe 85).

**ARSENAL (4-2-3-1):** Raya; Timber, Saliba, Gabriel, Hincapie (Calafiori 76); Zubimendi, Rice; Madueke (Martinelli 61), Havertz (Odegaard 61), Trossard (Eze 81); Gyokeres (Jesus 76).

**REFEREE:** Stuart Attwell.

# FARKE'S FOCUS IS ON FOREST

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

DANIEL FARKE has told Leeds to forget about sulking and focus on a game which could define their season.

Leeds were left licking their wounds following Saturday's 4-0 spanking from Arsenal at Elland Road.

But Farke (right) knows their attention needs to be on their crunch showdown with relegation rivals Nottingham Forest in West Yorkshire on Friday night.

The German believes his side lost to the best team in Europe, but must bounce back against Forest.

He said: "They deserved the win. So we have to accept that the better team won this game. There are reasons why this team is sitting on top of the table in the Premier League, why this team is the best team currently in Europe, with eight wins out of eight Champions League games.

"They were on it from the first to the last second.

"For that, there is not too much to over-interpret into this game. Of course, we should take the disappointment from it.

"But this type of game is not season-defining.

"We will put this game to bed pretty quick and from then on we concentrate only on Nottingham Forest here on Friday evening."

# HORNETS JAV VACANCY AS GRACIA QUITS

| WATFORD | 0 |
|---|---|
| SWANSEA | 2 |

*Championship*

BY **DARREN WELLS**

JAVI GRACIA resigned as Watford head coach despite the club's belief that he was still the "right man" for the job.

The Spaniard (above) only returned to Vicarage Road in October but held a meeting with the board yesterday morning to call time on his second spell in charge, with Watford claiming he "no longer had the motivation".

The Hornets said they were "sad and disappointed" to confirm Gracia's departure following their 2-0 defeat by Swansea on Saturday, which leaves them 10th in the Championship.

Their statement added: "We retain the belief Javi was the right man to lead the club towards its push for promotion, but Javi felt he no longer had the motivation and was not the right man to continue coaching this exciting group of young players.

"We respect his decision and accept his wish to leave Vicarage Road with immediate effect."

Saturday's defeat at home by Swansea extended Watford's winless run to five games.

Charlie Daniels, Dan Gosling and Adrian Mariappa will take charge of the team against Hull City tomorrow night.

Watford's statement added: "Everybody at the club believes wholeheartedly this is a squad capable of challenging for promotion."

Swansea climbed to 15th thanks to the victory, but Marko Stamenic hopes he doesn't cost Zan Vipotnik the Championship Golden Boot after 'nicking' a goal from his team-mate.

The prolific Slovenia striker leads the second tier charts with 13 but could have had another to his name if Stamenic hadn't followed in to make sure from the No.9's goal-bound flick at a Josh Tymon corner.

It set the Swans on their way to a win which was sealed late on by Josh Key, but Stamenic said: "I might have stolen Zan's goal and he might not be too happy with that!"

Watford had sub Nestory Irankunda sent off in stoppage-time to cap a miserable afternoon.

# NEGHLI FINALLY GETTING PHYSICAL

| | |
|---|---|
| **MILLWALL** | **1** |
| **SHEFFIELD UNITED** | **1** |

*Championship*

BATTLE-HARDENED Camiel Neghli insists Millwall are at last starting to see the best of him as he makes up for lost time.

The Algerian forward has struggled with the physical demands of the Championship in the 12 months since his club-record arrival from Sparta Rotterdam.

But after helping the Lions keep up their promotion push with a hard-earned point against Sheffield United, the 24-year-old (left) reckons he can hang tough in the bid to reach the Premier League. Mihailo Ivanovic grabbed Millwall's 9,000th goal in all competitions to cancel out Andre Brooks' effort to keep Alex Neil's men in fifth.

Neghli said: "At the beginning, it was tough for me getting used to a lot of physical stuff, so it's getting better now.

"Last year, when I came here, it was tough with injuries. This season I'm fit, so that's good, and I class this as my first season here."

Blades boss Chris Wilder admitted he loves a visit to the New Den. He said: "You get asked a question here and I always enjoy it. If you can get something here, that's a sign of a strong character, mentally and physically."

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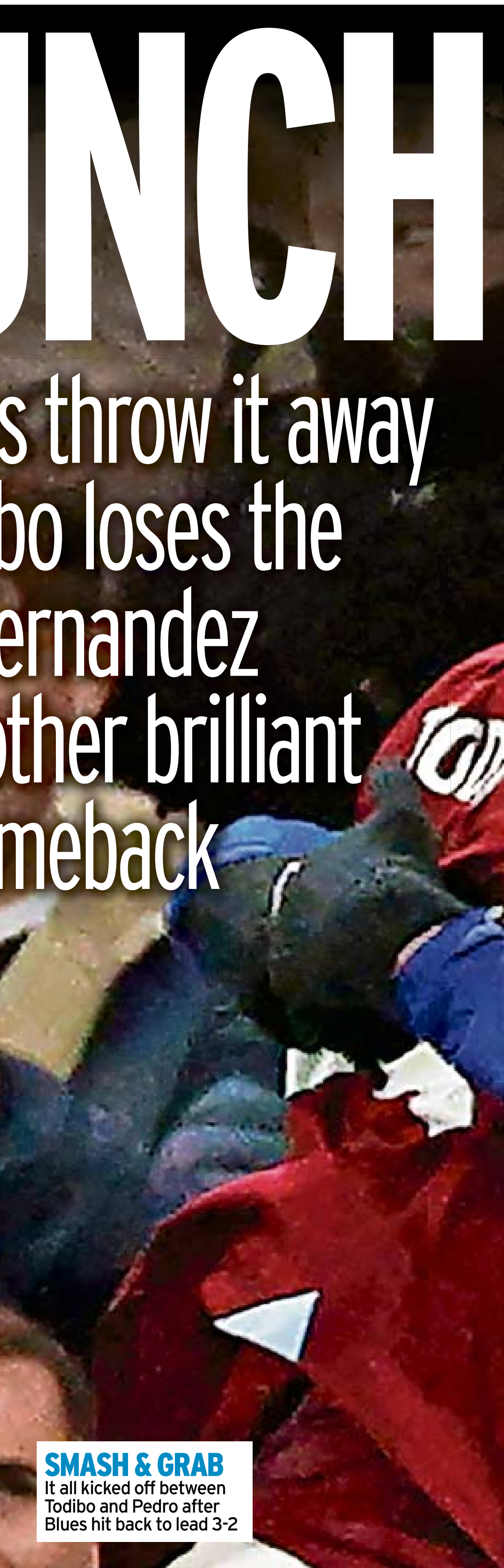
# BUNCH

## Hammers throw it away and Todibo loses the plot as Fernandez caps another brilliant Blues comeback



**SMASH & GRAB** It all kicked off between Todibo and Pedro after Blues hit back to lead 3-2

PREMIER LEAGUE

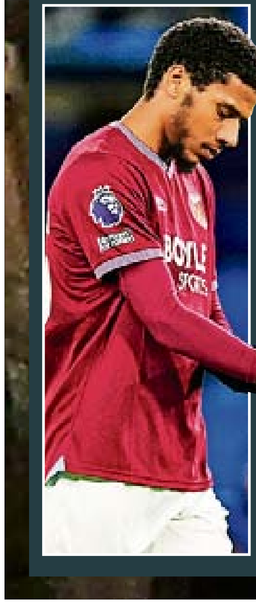
| CHELSEA | | WEST HAM |
|---|---|---|
| 71% | POSSESSION | 29% |
| 6 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 6 |
| 4 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 2 |
| 717 | TOTAL PASSES | 299 |
| 90% | PASSING SUCCESS | 69% |
| 9 | CORNERS | 3 |
| 0 | OFFSIDES | 2 |
| 11 | FOULS | 13 |
| 🟥 0 🟨 3 | CARDS | 🟨 2 🟥 0 |

**REFEREE:** Anthony Taylor

**MAN OF THE MATCH**
**JOAO PEDRO**

# BOWEN: EMOTIONS

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**



**JARROD BOWEN defended "fiery" Jean-Clair Todibo after the West Ham centre-back's crazy red card at Stamford Bridge.**

**The Frenchman (left) grabbed Joao Pedro by the neck amid a mass brawl and will now be banned for Saturday's relegation six-pointer at Burnley. The violent conduct could also see the usual three-match suspension extended. West Ham lost a two-goal lead and then their cool in the added-time melee, which was started by new signing Adama Traore.**

**But Irons captain Bowen, who scored the seventh-minute opener, said: "Emotions can get the better of people sometimes.**

**"JC trains well every single day and turns up every single week. He's always available and he's a fiery person, and I like that emotion from a player.**

**"Of course, you don't**

# OF CHOKERS!

## CHELSEA 3
## WEST HAM 2

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

**CHELSEA have staged two stirring comebacks in the last week to win 3-2.**

Now Liam Rosenior's side need a third to overturn the same scoreline in tomorrow's Carabao Cup semi-final, second leg.

And Wesley Fofana knows the Club World Cup champions cannot start the same sluggish way against Premier League leaders Arsenal as they did against West Ham.

"The mentality is top," insisted the France defender. "We saw it in Napoli and West Ham. I am very proud of the guys, but we need to make sure we don't do it every game like this because it is not good to take two goals and come back after, it is hard.

"We need to start better against Arsenal, against any team. We need to analyse everything about the first half and we need to make sure in the next game we are not doing the same.

"But Tuesday just means winning the game our way. It's a big game, against a very good team. It's the second leg, we lost the first leg, we need to go and win."

Chelsea go into their latest London derby on a run of five consecutive wins since the first leg and still in four competitions. But their season of inconsistency was encapsulated in 90-plus mad minutes against the Hammers.

The Blues were booed off at half-time after goals from Jarrod Bowen and Crysencio Summerville, before three subs at the break changed the game – and a mass brawl only added to the entertainment.

Rosenior has a Jose Mourinho-like trait of making early telling substitutions in contrast to his predecessor Enzo Maresca, who dropped 15 points from winning positions. Rosenior hauled off the left side of his team – Alejandro Garnacho, Jorrel Hato and Benoit Badiashile – and sent on Fofana, Marc Cucurella and Joao Pedro for the second half.

Fofana set up Pedro's 57th-minute headed goal (bottom) to start the fightback before Cucurella equalised (below) and Enzo Fernandez netted the injury-time winner (below, left).

Fofana revealed: "At half-time we just talked in the changing room about, 'Guys, forget the tactics, forget everything. We need to be more aggressive, we need to control the game and we need to score, we need to win'.

"The coach started and he said: 'Guys, I know you feel bad, but make sure at the end of the game we feel very great'. We feel very good and the team played well, we gave everything and we deserve the win."

Rosenior has the same problem as Maresca of a huge squad with big differences in quality – and resting regular first-team starters creates problems. Cole Palmer and Rory Delap were both still off the Premier League pace.

But Fofana, who played despite suffering from a heavy cold, said there are changes under the new regime.

"The manager is more aggressive, he wants more pressing, when we lose the ball, the five seconds after that, we are very aggressive," added the former Leicester centre-back. "He is here to help and he is very good."

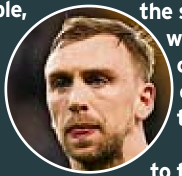
And how well does the former Strasbourg coach speak French? "He is not bad, he is pretty good, he has some words," smiled Fofana.

"I can speak a little bit of French with him but we speak English, it is better for him. I can speak English good, so it is good."

## WERE TO BLAME

want someone to get sent-off, but emotions were high. We're going to miss JC now, but it's just one of those things.

"We weren't terrible, we looked really comfortable for 45 minutes and have shown lots of good moments over recent weeks."



Manager Nuno Espirito Santo said: "When you score two goals away from home, the game should be yours." West Ham have now gone 23 matches without keeping a clean sheet and Bowen (below) added: "In the situation we're in, we can't dwell on it for too long.

"We have to take the positives, then go to Burnley next week and win the game. It's as simple as that."

# BLADES NEXT SO U BETTER SHARPEN UP

## OXFORD UNITED 0
## BIRMINGHAM CITY 2

*Championship*

CAM BRANNAGAN hopes a few home truths will help Oxford's survival bid after head coach Matt Bloomfield's unbeaten start came to a crashing halt.

And the former Liverpool midfielder has called on his team-mates to take their frustration out on ex-U's manager Chris Wilder's Sheffield United, as they look to bridge the five-point gap to safety after being well beaten by the Blues.

Second-bottom Oxford travel to Bramall Lane tomorrow and, after Saturday's dressing-room summit meeting, Brannagan said: "We know we weren't good enough and didn't deserve to win, but the biggest thing we can do is to learn from it.

"We've had a conversation in there and we should all look at ourselves and want to react.

"We're in it together in this dogfight, so you have to roll your sleeves up and go again. The focus now is on Sheffield United.

"We'll be looking at how we can hurt them. It's another massive game and we have to put this result behind us and do better.

"We had momentum to start with, but the big frustration is not putting the ball in the net and then the sucker punch of their first goal.

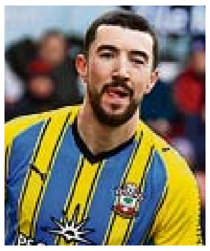
"We weren't clinical enough in the final third and we need to do better all over the pitch."

German striker Marvin Ducksch fired home his fifth goal in six games (above) after a Myles Peart-Harris own-goal to make it six unbeaten for Birmingham.

Chris Davies' side are five points shy of the play-off places and Brighton loan winger Ibrahim Osman said: "I thought we put in a really good performance.

"I've been here two weeks and I'm understanding more about how the team plays and there's definitely more of a connection.

"We're on a good run and we need to keep doing the same things to maintain it, week-in week-out."



# FINN NOT ONE TO DROUGHT HIS ABILITY

**STOKE 0**
**SOUTHAMPTON 2**

*Championship*

FINN AZAZ has been around long enough not to get too worried about the occasional goal drought.

The Southampton midfielder's faith was repaid as he helped snap a six-game winless away run in the league to ease the frustration of being held by local rivals Portsmouth last time out.

Flynn Downes added to an eighth goal of the season for Azaz (above).

And after finding the net for the first time in almost two months, the Republic of Ireland international, 25, said: "I've been around a while so I don't get too disheartened by a drought.

"I just keep working on myself, keep trying to stay consistent and always have confidence I'll score goals and get assists.

"It was a really mature team performance and nice to get a clean sheet because this is not an easy place to come. We executed the game plan really well. Momentum is obviously huge. We were really disappointed we didn't beat Pompey so this win is really important after that and let's go and build some momentum now."

Rhys Wilmot admitted below-par Stoke had no excuses after their fading play-off hopes took another hit.

It is just two points from the last 12 for Mark Robins' men and the defender said: "We weren't good enough.

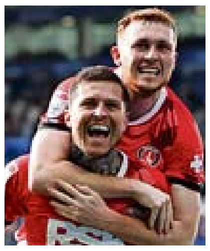
"Southampton were tidier than us, sharper than us and we didn't bring the energy we normally do.

"The timing of the second goal was disappointing because we'd started the second half quite brightly.

"Across the whole game we weren't good enough and got what we deserved in the end. We're frustrated we didn't produce.

"The lack of energy was probably the biggest thing.

"After a free week we came in and expected to play with loads of energy but we didn't do that."



# HARRY LEADS ADDICKS TO REDEMPTION

**LEICESTER 0**
**CHARLTON 2**

*Championship*

HARRY CLARKE hopes Charlton's successful Fox hunt goes some way to making up for being mauled by the Lions.

The Addicks have been itching for a chance to make amends after the four-goal hammering by local rivals Millwall.

And they took a big step on the road to redemption by ensuring managerless Leicester's nightmare campaign took its latest turn for the worse.

First-half goals from Sonny Carey and Lyndon Dykes sealed a first away win since October against 10-man City to lift Nathan Jones' side six points clear of danger.

On-loan Ipswich defender Clarke (above, with Dykes) hopes the win puts them back in the good books with the Valley faithful.

The 24-year-old said: "It's great to come away with three points.

"It wasn't a great mood after the Millwall game, and nor should it have been.

"Last week was nowhere near good enough and we wanted to set it straight this week, for the fans and for ourselves, so it feels great.

"The supporters were brilliant and were our 12th man. We knew coming here it was going to be tough.

"Even when they were down to 10 men they still had spells, but the fans kept us going through it.

"My legs were gone in the last 10 minutes but the supporters still kept shouting."

Caleb Okoli's early red ensured Andy King faced an uphill battle in his first game in caretaker charge as Leicester slid to a sixth defeat in the last nine.

Jordan Ayew hit the post from a second-half penalty to cap a day to forget.

Skipper Ricardo Pereira said: "Everything that could go wrong went wrong.

"To have the red card at the beginning changed everything for the strategy we had."

# TALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

## 'Tiny' Tarks and his big pals handle disruption

**EVERTON 1**
**BRIGHTON 1**

BY **STEVE JUDGE**

**JAMES TARKOWSKI has probably never felt smaller on a football pitch and he can thank David Moyes for that.**

The Everton boss' decision to select four centre-halves at Brighton meant Tarkowski was the shortest player in the back four.

That despite measuring in at "6ft 3ins with my long studs in", with Michael Keane partnering him inside of Jake O'Brien and Jarrad Branthwaite.

Tarkowski joked: "It must be the first time in history that two full-backs have been taller than the two centre-backs!"

Moyes revealed an injury to left-back Vitaliy Mykolenko forced his hand but it is something that he has long thought about doing.

The decision had online fans reworking the Peep Show "Four naans Jeremy!" meme to "Four centre-halves David, that's insane".

And while the selection made Moyes look like 'he is just a lucky Sean Dyche' in some people's eyes, he was following a path laid by far more illustrious managers.

In fact, he wasn't even the first Everton boss to do it.

Toffees fans will gleefully recall Carlo Ancelotti taking Everton to second in December 2020 after a back line of Mason Holgate, Yerry Mina, Michael Keane and Ben Godfrey delivered a 2-1 win over Arsenal.

Mikel Arteta was the beaten manager that day. It may just be coincidence that he has since turned the likes of Ben White and Riccardo Calafiori into full-backs.

Moyes preferred to namecheck Arteta's mentor, Pep Guardiola, as a man who has successfully deployed four centre-halves.

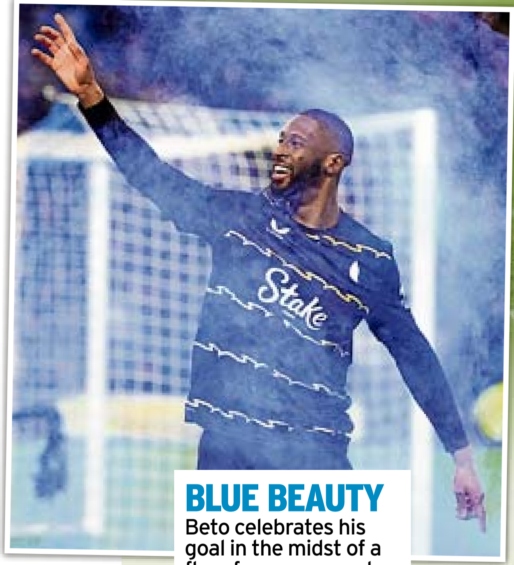
Tarkowski certainly could see the pluses.

He said: "Obviously, size and presence in both boxes are massive.

"I thought we had loads of first contacts in their box today.

"It's hard for them to pick who they're going to mark.

"If they've picked to mark me, I'm the smallest of the four of us. That means that there's someone else free."



**BLUE BEAUTY**
Beto celebrates his goal in the midst of a flare from away end

Moyes admitted there is a trade-off in terms of attacking threat from open play, which right-back Nathan Patterson rectified when coming off the bench late on.

It is a balance he will strongly consider ahead of Saturday's trip to Fulham having hinted he can see Branthwaite, who made his first start of the season, as a possible first-choice left-back in the future.

The four giants stood firm at the Amex until a clever dummy by Brighton substitute Charalampos Kostoulas gave Pascal Gross the space to slot home the 73rd-minute opening goal.

Yet Tarkowski was more worried about how Moyes might react after Toffees substitute Beto swept in a last-gasp leveller after Brighton keeper Bart Verbruggen had pushed out an O'Brien shot.

The goal earned Moyes a yellow card for the crime of dancing on the pitch.

Tarkowski, meanwhile, was sheepishly walking back to the halfway line, fearing his 62-year-old boss would see red as the dreaded VAR check took place.

He said: "I didn't really celebrate the goal because I thought I might have been given offside.

"I've seen the boss enjoying his celebrations and I was thinking, 'I hope I don't get given offside because he won't be happy with me'.

"He's been around the game a long time. I think he's making the most of it and enjoying all the moments he can. When you get a late goal like that, it feels amazing.

"Usually I'd celebrate a bit more if I weren't feeling sheepish and running back to my own half."

**BRIGHTON (4-3-3):** Verbruggen; Kadioglu, Van Hecke, Dunk, De Cuyper (Veltman 70); Gross (Milner 90), Baleba, Ayari; Rutter (Minteh 60), Welbeck (Kostoulas 70), Mitoma.

**EVERTON (4-2-3-1):** Pickford; O'Brien, Tarkowski, Keane, Branthwaite (Patterson 89); Gueye (Iroegbunam 80), Garner; Armstrong (Dibling 80), Dewsbury-Hall (Alcaraz 80); Ndiaye; Barry (Beto 89).

### LAND OF GIANTS

Michael Keane (left) and James Tarkowski (right) made up a huge defence

# BART'S POSITIVE VIEW

BY **STEVE JUDGE**

BART VERBRUGGEN is hoping for a positive week on the south coast with fierce rivals Crystal Palace next up at the Amex.

The Brighton goalkeeper conceded a last-gasp goal for the second week running to leave the Seagulls with just one win in 11 Premier League games.

Verbruggen admitted he is unable to pinpoint what the missing ingredient is after the 1-1 draw at home to Everton.

But he urged his team-mates to put their disappointment behind them when they return to training today and focus on delivering under-fire boss Fabian Hurzeler a first M23 derby victory.

Verbruggen said: "If I knew the answer to why we are not winning, then we wouldn't have drawn today.

"It is multiple things, right? And there's lessons we have to learn as a team. And we have to learn quickly. And we will next week.

"Every week you have to improve and you have to get better as a team.

"Everybody in the dressing room has the right to be disappointed. Everybody has the right to be upset for now.

"When we're back in the building, everybody needs to turn the page and focus ahead and look to the next game."

Toffees boss David Moyes was left gobsmacked by suggestions some Brighton fans want to see Hurzeler replaced.

He said: "Are you having a laugh? He's doing unbelievable. Sometimes the grass isn't always greener. You have a manager who will probably manage the German national team in years to come."

### PREMIER LEAGUE

| EVERTON | | BRIGHTON |
|---|---|---|
| 54% | POSSESSION | 46% |
| 2 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 4 |
| 5 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 2 |
| 492 | TOTAL PASSES | 423 |
| 83% | PASSING SUCCESS | 79% |
| 3 | CORNERS | 0 |
| 5 | OFFSIDES | 2 |
| 13 | FOULS | 14 |
| 🟥 0 🟨 1 | CARDS | 🟨 2 🟥 0 |

**REF:** Chris Kavanagh **ATT:** 31,419

### MAN OF THE MATCH

PASCAL GROSS

# No need to go by book with Moyes

**COMMENT** BY **STEVE JUDGE**

DAVID MOYES was spot on when he compared his euphoric jig on to the pitch as being just like David Pleat but with one key difference.

OK, Moyes wasn't wearing a tan suit like Pleat did at Maine Road in 1983 (below).

Nor did Beto's last-gasp equaliser keep Everton in the top flight on the final day of the season.

But as Moyes put it: "The difference is David Pleat does not get booked for it."

It is only since 2019 that laws chaining managers to their technical area were brought in.

That is why Enzo Maresca served a one-game ban after racing down the touchline to celebrate Chelsea's winner against Liverpool last season, while Jose Mourinho just got his shoes a little muddy when doing the same thing at Old Trafford in 2004.

Moyes justifiably said: "We want to see managers celebrate."

Liam Rosenior celebrated a dramatic late goal for Chelsea as they came from 2-0 down to beat West Ham.

But it was not a celebration that will live as long in the memory as the spectacle of a 62-year-old man dancing on the pitch.

These are moments that should be cherished, not punished.

So hats off to Moyes for showing he still has childlike joy for the game and for getting lost in the moment.

And good on him for insisting he will not stop himself doing it again, though his threat to do a knee slide is concerning.

Hopefully by then the rule makers will allow referees the leeway to let managers be all limbs when a last-minute goal goes in.

Or better still take it out of their hands.

You only have to go back to 2018 for that, when Jurgen Klopp raced on to the Anfield pitch after Divock Origi scored a dramatic late winner in the Merseyside derby. Klopp was handed a £8,000 fine retrospectively by the FA.

Hopefully the killjoys in suits will see sense and give dancing dads like Moyes (above) a free pass to give us memorable moments.

## LEAGUE ONE ROUND-UP

# ALEX DOUBLE FAILS TO PUT BRI ON A HIGH

BRIAN BARRY-MURPHY said his CARDIFF side lacked a cutting edge after the leaders had to settle for a point after BURTON fought back to draw 2-2.

After Jake Beesley had given Burton an early lead, the Welsh side looked to have turned things around following a second-half brace from Alex Robertson.

But with just 12 minutes left, Kyran Lofthouse equalised for the hosts with a deflected free-kick.

"Once we got that second goal we started to show our quality and it is a real disappointment to concede from a free-kick," said Bluebirds boss Barry-Murphy (above), whose side are now just two points clear of LINCOLN.

The Imps took full advantage after Jack Moylan's first-half goal gave them a 1-0 win over WIGAN.

Lincoln boss Michael Skubala said: "Every game in this league is tough and the lads had to dig really deep to get the three points."

Third-placed BOLTON kept up the chase with a 1-0 win at AFC WIMBLEDON through an early goal from Corey Blackett-Taylor.

Kyle Wootton scored twice in the second half as STOCKPORT came from behind to beat PLYMOUTH 2-1 at Edgeley Park.

BRADFORD ended a run of three straight league defeats after Tyreik Wright's late goal secured a 1-0 win over DONCASTER.

Cameron Humphreys struck in the 89th minute to give HUDDERSFIELD a 3-2 victory at PETERBOROUGH as new boss Liam Manning made it three straight wins since taking charge of Town, who were 2-0 up, to lift them into sixth spot.

LUTON beat BLACKPOOL 1-0 to keep themselves in the hunt for the play-off places.

But STEVENAGE lost ground after a brace from Davis Keillor-Dunn saw them beaten 3-1 by BARNSLEY.

ROTHERHAM boosted their survival hopes with a 4-0 win at EXETER while MANSFIELD played out a goalless draw with WYCOMBE.

NORTHAMPTON remain second from bottom after slumping to a 2-0 defeat by READING – a fourth straight loss.

Bottom club PORT VALE sit 10 points adrift of safety despite a 1-0 win over LEYTON ORIENT.

## LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP

# WOODMAN'S DEMANDING EVEN MORE

BY **EUAN PARSONS**

ANDY WOODMAN warned BROMLEY they still have work to do despite hailing his leaders in a thumping 4-1 win at GILLINGHAM.

Ben Thompson (above) stole the show with his first Football League hat-trick and Corey Whitely was also on target, with Bradley Dack pulling one back when Gills trailed 3-0.

"It was a masterclass," said a beaming Woodman. "We did a job on Gillingham. But I'm going to keep demanding from this group. It's quiet in that dressing room because we haven't achieved anything yet.

"When we get to where we want to get to then we'll have that party."

Bromley are six points clear at the top from CAMBRIDGE who made it 14 games unbeaten with a sixth win in a row, brushing aside OLDHAM 3-0 as Ben Knight's second-half penalty was followed by Louis Appere's quick double.

"I'm frustrated, angry and disappointed with us," fumed Oldham manager Micky Mellon.

MK DONS were knocked out of the promotion places after squandering a two-goal lead in the final half-hour to draw 2-2 at GRIMSBY, who claimed a point thanks to Jaze Kabia's brace.

Dons boss Paul Warne said: "Getting a point here shouldn't feel bad, but it feels like a defeat from the position we were in."

SALFORD moved up to third as goals from Jorge Grant and Kelly N'Mai secured a 2-0 win at TRANMERE.

NOTTS COUNTY are level on points with MK Dons after edging out FLEETWOOD 2-1, while WALSALL came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at CHESTERFIELD as substitute Albert Adomah scored the equalising goal.

Bottom-of-the-table HARROGATE lost 2-0 at CRAWLEY and sit five points off safety after their winless run was extended to 19 games, while Yusuf Akhamrich's double inspired BRISTOL ROVERS to a 3-0 win over fellow strugglers NEWPORT.

SHREWSBURY moved three points clear of second-bottom Newport with a goalless draw against BARNET, and SWINDON came from a goal down to beat BARROW 3-1, with Aaron Drinan bagging a late brace.

# VOCAL HEROES

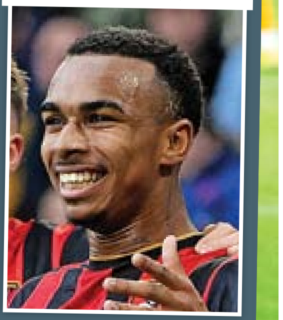
PREMIER LEAGUE

| WOLVES | | BOURNEMOUTH |
|---|---|---|
| 51% | POSSESSION | 49% |
| 7 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 4 |
| 7 | SHOTS OFF TARGET | 4 |
| 476 | TOTAL PASSES | 469 |
| 82% | PASSING SUCCESS | 85% |
| 5 | CORNERS | 6 |
| 2 | OFFSIDES | 2 |
| 11 | FOULS | 15 |
| 0 3 | CARDS | 3 0 |

**REF:** Michael Oliver **ATT:** 30,161

MAN OF THE MATCH

JUNIOR KROUPI



**LOUD AND PROUD**
Scott is mobbed after his late header (inset, bottom) but Kroupi (inset top) stole show

## Youngsters a big noise as Cherries get back in the groove

| | |
|---|---|
| WOLVES | 0 |
| BOURNEMOUTH | 2 |

BY **IAN BAKER**

**BOURNEMOUTH are starting to make a noise again – on and off the pitch.**

The visitors' dressing room at Molineux sounded as loud as one of the famous nightclubs in the seaside town with a real dance vibe.

And that volume reflects a team spirit that has reacted superbly to the dark times.

The Cherries started the year 11 games without a win. Add in Antoine Semenyo moving to Manchester City, plus an injury crisis, and a relegation battle looked in the offing. But they have now collected 10 points from their past four matches to put them up to 33 points – a higher amount than needed to survive last term.

And after this latest victory, inspired by 19-year-olds Junior Kroupi and Rayan, Djordje Petrovic could not hide his delight at the turnaround.

The goalkeeper said: "Even in the tough moments we were together pushing ourselves in training.

"We lost Antoine and have had a lot of injuries. But we have a very good dressing room and everyone is pushing each other. That is why the results are coming.

"The music is usually loud but after bad results not so much. Almost every day we have it on – in the medical room, the dressing room, everywhere is music. We try to have a good vibe. "

In Kroupi and Rayan, Bournemouth have a pair of spectacular youngsters.

Frenchman Kroupi made it eight goals for the season – more than any other teenager – with a brilliant 33rd-minute half volley.

And Brazilian Rayan, a £25million signing from Vasco da Gama last week, capped a fine debut by setting up Alex Scott's last-minute clincher.

Petrovic, 26, said: "You can see just by watching the training sessions that they are talented and they have a gift from the gods. There is no limit for them. We are trying to help the young players. They are amazing talents."

Wolves can consider themselves unlucky, with Joao Gomes hitting the post and Tolu Arokodare missing a hatful of chances.

But it was a day for Cherries head coach Andoni Iraola, managing his 100th Premier League game, to savour, although there remains a doubt over exactly how long they can hang on to the Spaniard for.

Petrovic added: "We made it special for him. Congratulations to him and hopefully it will continue to work"

**WOLVES (3-5-2):** Sa; Mosquera, S Bueno (Lima 89), Agbadou; R Gomes (Bellegarde 71), J Gomes, Andre (Arias 80), Mane, H Bueno (Wolfe 89); Arokodare, Hwang (Strand Larsen 70).

**BOURNEMOUTH (4-2-3-1):** Petrovic; Smith (Diakite 90), Hill, Senesi, Truffert; Scott, Cook; Jimenez (Toth 86), Kroupi (Christie 68), Adli (Rayan 68); Evanilson (Unal 85).

**REFEREE:** Michael Oliver.

## ABBEY'S CLASS ACT GIVES WOLVES GLIMPSE OF FUTURE

BY **IAN BAKER**

JEROME ABBEY was on the Wolves bench – after being plucked straight out of school.

Wolves may be relegation certainties but there are some hopes for the future.

Mateus Mane, 18, once again starred for Wanderers, and was unfortunate to see an early goal disallowed for offside.

And for Year 11 pupil Abbey, 16, he was in a maths lesson on Friday when the call came. Wolves head coach Rob Edwards (left) said: "Jerome came in to train on Friday. The headmaster had to go and get him! We all dream of moments like that as youngsters. He's a really exciting young player who we have high hopes for.

"Young players have to be good enough, like Mateus and one or two others. But the key for us to try and keep momentum and belief."

Today remains a day of uncertainty for Wolves, not least over the future of Jorgen Strand Larsen.

The Norway striker came on as a sub on Saturday following a week where Crystal Palace and Leeds stalled over transfer interest.

# LEAGUE ONE

**AFC WIMBLEDON** (0) **0**
ATT: 8,659

**BOLTON** (1) **1**
Blackett-Taylor 13

**AFC Wimbledon:** Bishop, Asiimwe (Nkeng 46), Johnson, Ogundere, Seddon, Tilley, Smith, Reeves (Hippolyte 80), Maycock (Nelson 73), Hackford (Stevens 67), Browne (Bugiel 79). **Booked:** Smith 90.
**Bolton:** Bonham, Osei-Tutu (Christie 83), Forino-Joseph, Toal, Johnston, Erhahon, Dempsey (Burstow 83), Apter (Cissoko 72), McAtee (Simons 68), Blackett-Taylor (Gale 67), Dalby. **Booked:** McAtee 60. **Ref:** Andrew Humphries.

**BARNSLEY** (2) **3**
McGoldrick 14
Keillor-Dunn 31, 48

**STEVENAGE** (1) **1**
Kemp 37
ATT: 9,823

**Barnsley:** Goodman, O'Connell, Shepherd, Watson, O'Keeffe, Banks (Roberts 90), Connell, Kelly (Yoganathan 71), McGoldrick, Cleary (Chirewa 80), Keillor-Dunn (Bland 81). **Booked:** Watson 7, Shepherd 65, Goodman 66.
**Stevenage:** Marschall, Pattenden, Sweeney, Piergianni, Freestone (Patterson 10), Earley, Phillips (Thompson 58), White (Houghton 46), Kemp (Campbell 59), Reid (Cornick 59), Roberts (Lubala 59). **Ref:** Sebastian Stockbridge.

**BRADFORD** (0) **1**
T Wright 81

**DONCASTER** (0) **0**
ATT: 19,775

**Bradford:** Walker, Pennington, Baldwin, Tilt (T Wright 72), Neufville, Power, Metcalfe, Touray, Jackson (Lapslie 59), Pointon (J Wright 85), Humphrys (Mullin 58). **Booked:** Baldwin 53, Mullin 71.
**Doncaster:** Clark, Sterry, Bailey, McGrath, Maxwell (Pearson 85), Gotts, Molyneux, Broadbent (Robinson 86), Clifton (Middleton 85), Adelakun (Gibson 61), Sharp (Hanlan 80). **Booked:** Hanlan 80. **Ref:** Craig Hicks.

**BURTON ALBION** (1) **2**
Beesley 11
Lofthouse 78

**CARDIFF** (0) **2**
Robertson 46, 63
ATT: 4,864

**Burton Albion:** Collins, Godwin-Malife, Sibbick, Hartridge, Lofthouse, Chauke (Larsson 81), Williams (Evans 50), Revan (Armer 68), McKiernan (Cannon 68), Adom (Shade 46), Beesley. **Booked:** McKiernan 30, Williams 32.
**Cardiff:** Trott, Ng, Fish, Chambers, Kpakio (Bagan 46), Wintle, Robertson (Colwill 74), Tanner, Kellyman (Turnbull 67), Willock (Ashford 74), Robinson (Davies 87). **Booked:** Kpakio 17. **Ref:** Martin Coy.

**EXETER** (0) **0**
ATT: 7,171

**ROTHERHAM** (1) **4**
Baptiste 28, Rafferty 71
Gray 72, McWilliams 75

**Exeter:** Whitworth, Sweeney (Cox 75), Fitzwater, Woodhouse, Niskanen, Brierley, Doyle-Hayes, Oakes (Higgins 57), Cole (Aitchison 57), Wareham (Magennis 74), Mendes Gomes (Tutierov 57). **Booked:** Brierley 24, Magennis 83, Niskanen 86.
**Rotherham:** Dawson, Rafferty, Baptiste, Jules, James, Powell, Gore (Adegboyega 40), Spence (Yearwood 74), McWilliams, Nombe (Martha 77), Gray. **Booked:** Martha 90. **Ref:** Paul Howard.

**LEYTON ORIENT** (0) **0**
ATT: 7,692

**PORT VALE** (1) **1**
John 2

**Leyton Orient:** Cahill, Craig (Moorhouse 68), Casey, Happe, James, Bakinson, Clare, Koroma (Mitchell 78), O'Neill (Wellens 67), Archibald (Matthews 86), Ballard. **Booked:** Ballard 34, Casey 80.
**Port Vale:** Gauci, John, Humphreys, C Hall, Gordon (Heneghan 90), Croasdale, Ojo (Lawrence-Gabriel 58), Waine (G Hall 58), Garrity, Archer (Headley 63), Brown (Stockley 57). **Booked:** Ojo 22, Gordon 72. **Ref:** David Rock.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cardiff | 29 | 18 | 6 | 5 | 52 | 29 | 60 |
| Lincoln City | 29 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 48 | 29 | 58 |
| Bolton | 30 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 38 | 27 | 52 |
| Stockport Cty | 29 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 42 | 35 | 52 |
| Bradford | 28 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 36 | 31 | 49 |
| Huddersfield | 30 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 51 | 40 | 48 |
| Luton | 29 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 38 | 34 | 42 |
| Stevenage | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 30 | 27 | 42 |
| Wycombe | 29 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 36 | 31 | 40 |
| Reading | 28 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 39 | 35 | 40 |
| Mansfield | 27 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 36 | 30 | 38 |
| Peterborough | 29 | 12 | 2 | 15 | 37 | 39 | 38 |
| Exeter | 28 | 11 | 4 | 13 | 33 | 30 | 37 |
| Plymouth | 29 | 11 | 4 | 14 | 36 | 42 | 37 |
| Barnsley | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 40 | 41 | 36 |
| Blackpool | 29 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 35 | 42 | 32 |
| AFC Wimbledon | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 28 | 36 | 32 |
| Leyton Orient | 29 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 40 | 49 | 32 |
| Wigan | 28 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 29 | 34 | 31 |
| Rotherham | 28 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 31 | 40 | 31 |
| Burton Albion | 28 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 30 | 41 | 31 |
| Doncaster | 28 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 31 | 45 | 30 |
| Northampton | 28 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 24 | 36 | 29 |
| Port Vale | 26 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 37 | 21 |

**LUTON** (0) **1**
Clark 71

**BLACKPOOL** (0) **0**
ATT: 10,697

**Luton:** Keeley, Lonwijk, Andersen, Mengi, Johnson, Palmer (Saville 89), Morris (Jones 68), Kodua (Naismith 89), Clark, Bramall (Richards 55), Wells (Al Hamadi 68). **Booked:** Naismith 90.
**Blackpool:** Peacock-Farrell, Casey, Ihiekwe, Husband, Hamilton, Evans, Brown, Ashworth, Bowler (Ennis 75), Fletcher, Obafemi (Bloxham 62). **Ref:** Martin Woods.

**MANSFIELD** (0) **0**

**WYCOMBE** (0) **0**
ATT: 7,401

**Mansfield:** Roberts, Oshilaja, Sweeney, Cargill (McLaughlin 46), Hewitt (Bolton 46), A Lewis, Hendry (Adeboyejo 79), Blake-Tracy, Russell (Moriah-Welsh 72), Evans, Irow (Oates 46).
**Wycombe:** Norris, Grimmer (Huggins 66), Allen, Casey, Harvie, Boyd-Munce (Leahy 84), Morley, Quitirna, Harris (Fink 79), Onyedinma, Woodrow (Mullins 66). **Booked:** Fink 90. **Ref:** Ben Speedie.

**NORTHAMPTON** (0) **0**
ATT: 7,038

**READING** (0) **2**
Marriott 55, Keane 58

**Northampton:** Fitzsimons, McCarthy (Dyche 63), Guthrie (Moore 37), Perkins (McGeehan 63), Hoskins, Taylor, Campbell, Guinness-Walker, List (Evans 78), Eaves, Swyer (Vale 78). **Booked:** Moore 57, McGeehan 67.
**Reading:** Pereira, Nyambe (Burns 89), O'Connor, Dorsett, Roberts, Lane (Ehibhatiomhan 75), Wing, Savage (Fraser 62), Doyle (Ritchie 75), Marriott, Keane (Yiadom 88). **Booked:** Savage 52, Roberts 90, Yiadom 90. **Ref:** Jamie O'Connor.

**PETERBOROUGH** (0) **2**
Lisbie 64, Dornelly 85
ATT: 9,261

**HUDDERSFIELD** (1) **3**
Sorensen 27, Balker 47
Humphreys 89

**Peterborough:** Bass, Dornelly, Lees, Nevett, Johnston, Collins, O'Brien-Brady (Garbett 56), Hayes (Frith 85), Khela (Morgan 55), Lisbie, Leonard. **Booked:** Collins 20, Nevett 25, O'Brien-Brady 30, Dornelly 57, Lees 59.
**Huddersfield:** Nicholls, Balker, Low (Feeney 67), Wallace, Sorensen (Gooch 63), Ledson, McGuane, Mumba, Harness, Charles (Humphreys 77), Kasumu (Miller 77). **Booked:** Ledson 49, Charles 76, Harness 79. **Ref:** Lee Swabey.

**STOCKPORT COUNTY** (0) **2**
Wootton 69, 85

**PLYMOUTH** (1) **1**
Watts 42 ATT: 10,117

**Stockport County:** Hinchliffe, Dacres-Cogley, Hills, Pye, Edun, Norwood, Bailey (Diamond 60), Osborn, Sidibeh (Bate 60), Olaofe (Olowu 88), Wootton.
**Plymouth:** Ashby-Hammond, Edwards, Ross Jensen, Mitchell, Galloway (MacKenzie 62), Curtis, Boateng, Wiredu, Sorinola (Dale 77), Watts (Amaechi 46), Pepple. **Booked:** Watts 20, Sorinola 45, Edwards 49, Wiredu 74. **Ref:** Sam Allison.

**WIGAN** (0) **0**
ATT: 9,436

**LINCOLN CITY** (1) **1**
Moylan 24

**Wigan:** Tickle, Weir, Carragher, Aimson, Fox, Murray (Hungbo 46), Moxon (Costelloe 80), Smith, Wright (Borges Rodrigues 86), Taylor (Bettoni 80), Asamoah. **Booked:** Moxon 74.
**Lincoln City:** Wickens, Darikwa, Hamer, Bradley, Reach, Varfolomeyev (Bayliss 86), McGrandles, Hackett (House 66), Moylan (Jefferies 66), Street (Lloyd 86), Draper (Towler 75). **Booked:** Wickens 90. **Ref:** Carl Brook.

# PREMIER LEAGUE

| | | HOME | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| 1 | Arsenal | 24 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 53 |
| 2 | Man City | 24 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 29 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 15 | 47 |
| 3 | Aston Villa | 24 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 46 |
| 4 | Man Utd | 24 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 15 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 21 | 41 |
| 5 | Chelsea | 24 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 40 |
| 6 | Liverpool | 24 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 21 | 39 |
| 7 | Brentford | 24 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 20 | 36 |
| 8 | Fulham | 24 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 21 | 34 |
| 9 | Everton | 24 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 34 |
| 10 | Newcastle | 24 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 33 |
| 11 | Sunderland | 23 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 33 |
| 12 | Bournemouth | 24 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 30 | 33 |
| 13 | Brighton | 24 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 19 | 31 |
| 14 | Tottenham | 24 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 17 | 29 |
| 15 | Crystal Palace | 24 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 29 |
| 16 | Leeds | 24 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 25 | 26 |
| 17 | Nottm Forest | 24 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 26 |
| 18 | West Ham | 24 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 16 | 26 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 20 |
| 19 | Burnley | 23 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 15 |
| 20 | Wolves | 24 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 20 | 8 |

**BRIGHTON** (0) **1**
Gross 73

**EVERTON** (0) **1**
Beto 90
ATT: 31,419

**CHELSEA** (0) **3**
Joao Pedro 57
Cucurella 70
Fernandez 90

**WEST HAM** (2) **2**
Bowen 7
Summerville 36

**LEEDS** (0) **0**
ATT: 36,858

**ARSENAL** (2) **4**
Zubimendi 27
Madueke 38
Gyokeres 69
Gabriel Jesus 86

**LIVERPOOL** (2) **4**
Ekitike 41, 43
Wirtz 67, Konate 90

**NEWCASTLE** (1) **1**
Gordon 36
ATT: 60,416

**WOLVES** (0) **0**
ATT: 30,161

**BOURNEMOUTH** (1) **2**
Junior Kroupi 33
Scott 90

**ASTON VILLA** (0) **0**
ATT: 41,415

**BRENTFORD** (1) **1**
Ouattara 45

**MAN UTD** (1) **3**
Casemiro 19
Cunha 56
Sesko 90

**FULHAM** (0) **2**
Jimenez 85 (pen)
Kevin 90

**NOTTM FOREST** (1) **1**
Gibbs-White 5

**CRYSTAL PALACE** (1) **1**
Sarr 45 (pen)
ATT: 30,334

**TOTTENHAM** (0) **2**
Solanke 53, 70

**MAN CITY** (2) **2**
Cherki 11
Semenyo 44
ATT: 61,337

## TOP SCORERS

| PREMIER LEAGUE | CHAMPIONSHIP | LEAGUE ONE | LEAGUE TWO | SCOTTISH PREM |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Haaland** (Man City)......... 20 | **Vipotnik** (Swansea) ......... 13 | **Ballard** (Leyton Orient) .. 15 | **Drinan** (Swindon)............. 16 | **Maswanhise** (Motherwell). 13 |
| **Thiago** (Brentford)........... 16 | **Clarke** (Ipswich) ............... 12 | **Wootton** (Stockport)....... 15 | **Cheek** (Bromley).............. 14 | **Nygren** (Celtic) ................ 12 |
| **Semenyo** (Man City)........ 12 | **Armstrong** (Soton) ........... 11 | **Keillor-Dunn** (Barnsley). 13 | **Paterson** (MK Dons) ........ 13 | **Shankland** (Hearts).......... 11 |
| 10 for AFC Bournemouth | **Whittaker** (Middlesbro)... 11 | **Fletcher** (Blackpool)....... 12 | **Jatta** (Notts County)....... 12 | **Braga** (Hearts).................. 10 |
| **Ekitike** (Liverpool)........... 10 | **McBurnie** (Hull) ................ 11 | **Tolaj** (Plymouth).............. 12 | **Kanu** (Walsall).................. 12 | **Stewart** (Falkirk) ...............9 |

# CHAMPIONSHIP

**BRISTOL CITY** (0) **0**
ATT: 23,512

**DERBY** (3) **5**
Brewster 13, Brereton Diaz 16
Clark 36, Agyemang 66, Salvesen 88

**Bristol City:** Vitek, Tanner, Dickie, Pring, Sykes (Borges 46), Randell (Morsy 74), Knight, McCrorie, Bell (Armstrong 46), Twine (Burgzorg 63), Jakobsen. **Booked:** Pring 80.
**Derby:** O'Donnell, Ward, Sanderson, Clarke, Elder, Ozoh, Travis (Fraulo 60), Brereton Diaz (Eames 78), Clark (Weimann 78), Brewster (Banel 70), Agyemang (Salvesen 71). **Ref:** Tom Nield.

**BLACKBURN** (0) **0**
ATT: 13,769

**HULL** (0) **1**
Koumas 81

**Blackburn:** Toth, Alebiosu (Miller 46), O'Riordan, McLoughlin, Cashin, Forshaw (Baradji 57), Tronstad, Morishita (De Neve 66), Cantwell, Jorgensen, Ohashi (Gudjohnsen 66). **Booked:** Cantwell 37, McLoughlin 82.
**Hull:** Pandur, Coyle, Hughes, Egan, Famewo (Jacob 71), Lundstram (Hirakawa 61), Slater, Gelhardt (Koumas 77), Hadziahmetovic, Millar (Dowell 61), McBurnie (Joseph 77). **Ref:** Thomas Bramall.

**IPSWICH** (0) **1**
Clarke 90 (pen)

**PRESTON** (0) **1**
Gibson 72 ATT: 27,549

**Ipswich:** Walton, Furlong (Johnson 78), O'Shea, Kipre, Davis, Matusiwa, Cajuste (Taylor 65), Burns (Walle 65), Mehmeti (Akpom 78), Clarke, Azon (Hirst 46). **Booked:** Clarke 82.
**Preston:** Cornell, Lindsay, Gibson, Offiah, Valentin, Thompson, Whiteman, Small, McCann, Devine (Frokjaer-Jensen 81), Jebbison. **Booked:** Thompson 33, McCann 50. **Ref:** John Busby.

**LEICESTER** (0) **0**

**CHARLTON** (2) **2**
Carey 36, Dykes 45

**Leicester:** Stolarczyk, Ricardo Pereira, Okoli, Nelson, L Thomas, Page, Choudhury (Winks 29), Fatawu, De Cordova-Reid (Aluko 19), Mavididi (Monga 77), Ayew (Daka 77). **Sent-off:** Okoli 15.
**Charlton:** Kaminski, Ramsay, Jones, Bell, Clarke, Coady (Coventry 65), Docherty, Chambers (Campbell 65), Carey (Fevrier 65), Dykes (Gillesphey 87), Leaburn (Godden 46). **Booked:** Dykes 40, Clarke 52. **Ref:** Andrew Kitchen.

**MIDDLESBROUGH** (1) **1**
Hackney 17

**NORWICH** (0) **0**
ATT: 28,616

**Middlesbrough:** Brynn, Brittain (Fry 71), Ayling, Malanda, Targett, Browne, Morris, Hackney, Whittaker (Strelec 71), Conway (Sarmiento 86), McGree (Gilbert 62). **Booked:** Strelec 72, Morris 80.
**Norwich:** Kovacevic, Fisher, McConville, Cordoba, Chrisene, McLean, Wright (Schwartau 59), Diallo (Kvistgaarden 59), Ben Slimane, Ahmed (Jurasek 82), Makama. **Booked:** Kovacevic 56, Ben Slimane 80. **Ref:** Ben Toner.

**MILLWALL** (1) **1**
Ivanovic 19

**SHEFF UTD** (1) **1**
Brooks 17
ATT: 18,007

**Millwall:** Crocombe, Crama, Taylor, Cooper, Doughty (Sturge 60), De Norre (Ballo 86), Mitchell, Azeez, Langstaff (Bannan 70), Neghli, Ivanovic (Coburn 71). **Booked:** Cooper 78, De Norre 84.
**Sheff Utd:** Cooper, Seriki, McGuinness, Bindon, McCallum (Burrows 45), Peck, T Davies (Arblaster 46), Brooks, O'Hare, Hamer (Campbell 80), Cannon. **Booked:** McGuinness 69. **Ref:** Lewis Smith.

**OXFORD UTD** (0) **0**
ATT: 11,509

**BIRMINGHAM** (1) **2**
Peart-Harris 23 (og), Ducksch 66

**Oxford Utd:** Cumming, Long, Davies, Brown, Spencer, McDonnell (Konak 46), Brannagan, Phillips (Placheta 55), Peart-Harris, Mills (Romeny 65), Harris (Lankshear 55). **Booked:** Spencer 22, McDonnell 41.
**Birmingham:** Beadle, Iwata (Samuel 65), Neumann, Klarer, Wagner, Solis, Paik, Roberts (Vicente 60), Stansfield (Priske 59), Osman (Wright 87), Ducksch (Doyle 87). **Booked:** Stansfield 57, Iwata 61. **Ref:** Stephen Martin.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coventry | 30 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 63 | 35 | 58 |
| Middlesbrough | 30 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 47 | 29 | 58 |
| Hull | 29 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 48 | 40 | 53 |
| Ipswich | 29 | 14 | 9 | 6 | 49 | 28 | 51 |
| Millwall | 30 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 37 | 36 | 50 |
| Wrexham | 30 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 44 | 37 | 47 |
| Derby | 30 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 44 | 37 | 45 |
| Preston | 30 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 37 | 34 | 44 |
| Bristol City | 30 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 40 | 36 | 43 |
| Watford | 29 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 39 | 35 | 43 |
| QPR | 30 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 42 | 43 | 43 |
| Stoke | 30 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 34 | 28 | 42 |
| Birmingham | 30 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 41 | 38 | 42 |
| Southampton | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 43 | 41 | 40 |
| Swansea | 30 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 34 | 37 | 39 |
| Leicester | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 40 | 45 | 38 |
| Sheff Utd | 29 | 11 | 3 | 15 | 40 | 42 | 36 |
| Charlton | 29 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 29 | 38 | 35 |
| Norwich | 30 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 37 | 42 | 33 |
| Portsmouth | 28 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 27 | 37 | 33 |
| West Brom | 30 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 32 | 47 | 32 |
| Blackburn | 29 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 26 | 38 | 29 |
| Oxford Utd | 29 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 27 | 38 | 27 |
| Sheff Wed | 29 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 18 | 57 | -7 |

**PORTSMOUTH** (2) **3**
Chaplin 20, Alli 25, Adams 49

**WEST BROM** (0) **0**
ATT: 20,413

**Portsmouth:** Schmid, Devlin, Poole, Ogilvie, Swanson, Dozzell, Adams (Swift 84), Segecic (Pack 75), Chaplin, Alli (Kirk 84), Bishop (Anderson 70).
**West Brom:** O'Leary, Mepham, Phillips (Styles 46), Taylor, Imray (Gilchrist 46), Diakite, Molumby (Mowatt 73), Iling-Junior (Maja 46), Johnston (Wallace 63), Price, Heggebo. **Booked:** Phillips 11, Johnston 22. **Ref:** Matthew Donohue.

**QPR** (0) **2**
Kone 66
Madsen 73

**COVENTRY** (0) **1**
Eccles 53
ATT: 17,321

**QPR:** Walsh, Edwards, Dunne, Cook, Norrington-Davies, Hayden (Field 84), Madsen, Dembele (Bennie 24), Vale, Smyth (Saito 71), Kone. **Booked:** Kone 25, Norrington-Davies 62.
**Coventry:** Rushworth, van Ewijk, Thomas, Kitching, Dasilva, Eccles, Grimes, Sakamoto (Yang 80), Rudoni, Mason-Clark (Esse 35), Simms (Wright 71). **Booked:** Eccles 90, Thomas 90. **Ref:** Josh Smith.

**SHEFF WED** (0) **0**
ATT: 23,297

**WREXHAM** (0) **1**
Smith 58

**Sheff Wed:** M Cooper, Palmer, Otegbayo, L Cooper, Valery, Heskey, Ingelsson, Johnson (Thornton 75), Cadamarteri, Yates (McNeill 68), Lowe (Fernandes 88).
**Wrexham:** Okonkwo, Cleworth, Hyam, Doyle, Kabore, James, Sheaf (Dobson 88), Cacace, Windass (Rathbone 78), Broadhead (O'Brien 78), Smith (Moore 78). **Ref:** David Webb.

**STOKE** (0) **0**
ATT: 23,529

**SOUTHAMPTON** (1) **2**
Azaz 10, Downes 53

**Stoke:** Simkin, Talovierov (Wilmot 46), Phillips, Lawal, Bocat, Rigo (Seko 46), Nzonzi (Pearson 46), Cisse, Bae (Curley 78), Thomas, Smit. **Booked:** Fawunmi 83, Lawal 90.
**Southampton:** Peretz, Bree, Harwood-Bellis, Stephens, Welington, Jander (Charles 74), Downes, Fellows (Manning 90), Azaz, Scienza (Matsuki 65), Stewart (Oyekunle 65). **Booked:** Azaz 30, Stephens 71, Peretz 73. **Ref:** Farai Hallam.

**WATFORD** (0) **0**
ATT: 18,691

**SWANSEA** (0) **2**
Stamenic 55, Key 80

**Watford:** Selvik, Ngakia, Keben, Abankwah, Bola, Louza (Mendy 77), Kayembe, Ince (Baah 65), Doumbia (Irankunda 76), Maamma (Chakvetadze 65), Kjerrumgaard. **Booked:** Louza 53. **Sent-off:** Irankunda 90.
**Swansea:** Vigouroux, Ward (Galbraith 68), Cabango, Burgess, Tymon, Stamenic, Ronald (Key 80), Goncalo Franco (Yalcouye 68), Fulton (Cullen 59), Eom (Nunes Gomes 59), Vipotnik. **Booked:** Burgess 7, Cullen 90. **Ref:** Matthew Corlett.

# WEEK AHEAD

(7.45 unless stated)
**TODAY**
**Premier League**
Sunderland v Burnley (8)
**TUESDAY**
**Carabao Cup Semi-Final Second Leg**
Arsenal (3) v Chelsea (2) (8)
**Sky Bet Championship**
Blackburn v Sheff Wed
Hull v Watford
Portsmouth v Ipswich
Sheff Utd v Oxford Utd
**Sky Bet League One**
Barnsley v Northampton
Burton Albion v Doncaster
Port Vale v AFC Wimbledon (7)
**Sky Bet League Two**
Barnet v Crewe
Bristol Rovers v Walsall
Harrogate Town v Swindon
Notts County v Gillingham
**Enterprise National League**
Altrincham v Morecambe
Forest Green v Woking
Rochdale v Boreham Wood
**Scottish Premiership**
St Mirren v Hearts (8)
**Scottish Championship**
Queen's Park v Ross County
**KDM Evolution Trophy Quarter-Final**
Arbroath v Airdrieonians
**WEDNESDAY**
**Carabao Cup Semi-Final Second Leg**
Man City (2) v Newcastle (0) (8)
**Scottish Premiership**
Aberdeen v Celtic (8)
Dundee v Motherwell
Hibernian v Dundee Utd
Livingston v Falkirk
Rangers v Kilmarnock
**THURSDAY**
**Sky Bet League Two**
Accrington v Salford (8.01)
**FRIDAY**
**Premier League**
Leeds v Nottm Forest (8)
**Sky Bet Championship**
Charlton v QPR (8.01)
**Scottish Cup Fifth Round**
Airdrieonians v St Mirren
**Women's Super League 2**
Sunderland v Sheff Utd (7)
(3 unless stated)
**SATURDAY**
**Premier League**
Bournemouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Sunderland
Burnley v West Ham
Fulham v Everton
Man Utd v Tottenham (12.30)
Newcastle v Brentford (5.30)
Wolves v Chelsea
**Sky Bet Championship**
Birmingham v Leicester (3.01)
Coventry v Oxford Utd (3.01)
Derby v Ipswich (12.31)
Hull v Bristol City (3.01)
Norwich v Blackburn (12.31)
Preston v Portsmouth (3.01)
Southampton v Watford (12.31)
West Brom v Stoke (3.01)
Wrexham v Millwall (3.01)
**Sky Bet League One**
Wimbledon v Reading (3.01)
Bolton v Barnsley (3.01)
Huddersfield v Blackpool (3.01)
Luton v Bradford (12.31)
Mansfield v Exeter (3.01)
Northampton v Stevenage (3.01)
Peterborough v Wigan (3.01)
Plymouth v Lincoln City (3.01)
Port Vale v Burton Alb (12.31)
Rotherham v Cardiff (3.01)
Stockport C v Leyton O (3.01)
Wycombe v Doncaster (3.01)
**Sky Bet League Two**
Bristol Rv v Chesterfield (3.01)
Cheltenham v MK Dons (3.01)
Colchester v Shrewsbury (3.01)
Crawley Town v Crewe (12.31)
Fleetwood Tn v Bromley (3.01)
Gillingham v Tranmere (3.01)
Harrogate T v Cambridge U (3.01)
Newport County v Grimsby (3.01)
Notts County v Barrow (3.01)
Swindon v Oldham (12.31)
Walsall v Barnet (3.01)
**Enterprise National League**
Aldershot v FC Halifax
Altrincham v Yeovil
Boston Utd v Sutton Utd
Brackley v Solihull Moors
Eastleigh v Wealdstone (5.30)
Gateshead v Braintree Town
Morecambe v Truro City
Rochdale v Carlisle
Scunthorpe v Southend
Tamworth v Hartlepool
Woking v Boreham Wood
York v Forest Green
**Women's Super League**
Leicester v Man Utd (12)
**Scottish Cup Fifth Round**
Aberdeen v Motherwell (7.30)
Celtic v Dundee (5.30)
Dundee Utd v Spartans
Dunfermline v Kelty Hearts
Elgin v Partick
**William Hill Scottish League 1**
Cove Rangers v Queen of Sth
Hamilton v Stenhousemuir
Inverness CT v East Fife
Montrose v Kelty Hearts
Peterhead v Alloa
**William Hill Scottish League 2**
Edinburgh City v East Kilbride
Forfar v Dumbarton
Spartans v Stirling
Stranraer v Annan Athletic
**KDM Evolution Trophy Quarter-Final**
St Johnstone v Ayr
**SUNDAY**
**Premier League**
Brighton v Crystal Palace (2)
Liverpool v Man City (4.30)
**Sky Bet Championship**
Swansea v Sheff Wed (12.01)
**Scottish Cup Fifth Round**
Stenhousemuir v Falkirk (7.30)
Rangers v Queen's Park (2)
**Women's Super League**
Arsenal v Man City (12)
Liverpool FC v Aston Villa (12)
London City v Everton (12)
Tottenham v Chelsea (2.25)
West Ham v Brighton & Hove (12)
**Women's Super League 2**
Crystal P v Bristol City (2)
Durham v Birmingham (12)
Nottm Forest v Charlton (2)
Portsmouth v Ipswich (2)
Southampton v Newcastle (2)

## 1-2-X CHECK

| POOLS NUMBER | FULL TIME |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1a |
| 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 1a |
| 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 1a |
| 10 | 1a |
| 11 | 3 |
| 12 | 1a |
| 13 | 1 |
| 14 | 3 |
| 15 | 1a |
| 16 | 1 |
| 17 | 1 |
| 18 | 1a |
| 19 | 1a |
| 20 | 1a |
| 21 | 1a |
| 22 | 1 |
| 23 | 1 |
| 24 | 3 |
| 25 | 1a |
| 26 | 1a |
| 27 | 1 |
| 28 | 2 |
| 29 | 1a |
| 30 | 1a |
| 31 | 1 |
| 32 | 1a |
| 33 | 1 |
| 34 | 1 |
| 35 | 3 |
| 36 | 1 |
| 37 | 1 |
| 38 | 1a |
| 39 | 1a |
| 40 | 3 |
| 41 | 1a |
| 42 | 2 |
| 43 | 1 |
| 44 | 1 |
| 45 | 1a |
| 46 | 2 |
| 47 | 1 |
| 48 | 1a |
| 49 | 2 |

# LEAGUE TWO

**ACCRINGTON STANLEY** (2) **3**
Whalley 8, Love 45
Matthews 59

**CHELTENHAM** (0) **1**
Thomas 73
ATT: 2,052

**Accrington:** Wright, Love, Rawson, Matthews, O'Brien (Sass 66), Conneely (Butterfield 73), Sinclair, Heath, Whalley, Henderson (Grant 66), Woods (Abimbola 73). **Booked:** Henderson 55.
**Cheltenham:** Day, Tomkinson, Cundy, Wilson (Sherring 69), Nurse (Martin 69), Stevenson, Jude-Boyd, Young, Deeming (Davison 60), Thomas, Bickerstaff. **Booked:** Cundy 45, Davison 77. **Ref:** Stephen Parkinson.

**BRISTOL ROVERS** (2) **3**
Akhamrich 11, 29, Cavegn 88

**NEWPORT COUNTY** (0) **0**
ATT: 8,591

**Bristol Rovers:** Young, Balmer, Kilgour, Harbottle, Sparkes, De Havilland, Mola (Thompson-Sommers 90), Akhamrich (Senior 81), Forde, Harrison (Rijks 79), Cavegn. **Booked:** Sparkes 61.
**Newport County:** Wright, Shephard (Thomas 56), Jenkins, Baker, Delaney (B Lloyd 46 (Jamieson 75)), Driscoll-Glennon, Spellman (Garner 74), Brennan, Biggins, Kamwa (Davies 86), Crole. **Booked:** Driscoll-Glennon 33, Biggins 57. **Ref:** Will Finnie.

**CHESTERFIELD** (2) **2**
Grigg 13
Markanday 20

**WALSALL** (1) **2**
Kanu 41, A Adomah 60
ATT: 8,702

**Chesterfield:** Hemming, Curtis, McFadzean, Swinkels, Pearce, Braybrooke (Ladapo 87), Stirk, Markanday (Berry-McNally 76), Mandeville (Naylor 75), Duffy (Dobra 66), Grigg (Bonis 66). .
**Walsall:** Roberts, Burke, Flint, Weir, Barrett, Pattison, Chang (Lakin 73), Clarke (Comley 90), Harper, Matt (A Adomah 46 (Jellis 81)), Kanu (Loupalo-Bi 90). **Ref:** Charles Breakspear.

**CRAWLEY TOWN** (1) **2**
Anderson 27, Flint 66

**HARROGATE TOWN** (0) **0**
ATT: 3,326

**Crawley Town:** Chapman, Barker, Vassell, Flint, Gordon (Forster 76), Williams (Pereira 87), Anderson (Bajrami 46), Russell (L Richards 67), T Richards (McKirdy 67), Darcy, Orsi-Dadomo. **Booked:** Barker 18, Williams 47.
**Harrogate Town:** Oxley (Gray 31), Headman (Cass 32), Heffernan, Gibson, Slater, Morris, Evans, Marsh (Thomson 68 (McAleny 75)), Smith, Sutton, Acquah (Muldoon 75). **Ref:** Tom Reeves.

**CREWE** (0) **1**
Agius 68

**COLCHESTER** (0) **0**
ATT: 4,776

**Crewe:** Lawlor, Billington, Pond, Demetriou, Hutchinson, Powell (Lunt 57), Sanders (Moore 65), O'Reilly (Thomas 76), Holicek, Agius, March (Thibaut 56).
**Colchester:** Macey, Back, Tucker, Araujo, Hunt (Gordon 81), Barbrook, Gape (Williams 71), K Lisbie, Payne, Edwards, Goodwin (Tovide 62). **Booked:** Gape 49, Back 74, Payne 90. **Ref:** Elliot Bell.

**FLEETWOOD TOWN** (0) **1**
Davies 65
ATT: 3,428

**NOTTS COUNTY** (1) **2**
Jatta 38, Dennis 70

**Fleetwood Town:** Lynch, Holgate, Haughey, Hughes, Ennis, Bonds, Virtue (McLean 90), Powell (Roberts 87), Helm, Davies, Evans (Devonport 79). **Booked:** Holgate 59, Davies 70.
**Notts County:** Belshaw, Macari, Platt, Bedeau, Tsaroulla (Ness 79), Norburn, Hall (Robertson 46), Jones (Kouhyar 61), Iorpenda (Dennis 61), Grant, Jatta (Ndlovu 61). **Booked:** Jatta 52, Belshaw 56, Dennis 64, Norburn 81. **Ref:** Ross Joyce.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bromley | 29 | 17 | 8 | 4 | 52 | 31 | 59 |
| Cambridge Utd | 28 | 15 | 8 | 5 | 38 | 22 | 53 |
| Salford City | 28 | 16 | 4 | 8 | 41 | 34 | 52 |
| MK Dons | 29 | 14 | 9 | 6 | 56 | 31 | 51 |
| Notts County | 28 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 43 | 29 | 51 |
| Swindon | 28 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 46 | 34 | 49 |
| Walsall | 28 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 26 | 49 |
| Chesterfield | 29 | 11 | 12 | 6 | 46 | 39 | 45 |
| Grimsby | 28 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 41 | 32 | 44 |
| Crewe | 29 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 45 | 37 | 43 |
| Colchester | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 41 | 31 | 42 |
| Barnet | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 36 | 29 | 42 |
| Accrington Stanley | 28 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 34 | 30 | 40 |
| Gillingham | 27 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 38 | 34 | 38 |
| Fleetwood Town | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| Oldham | 27 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 28 | 26 | 35 |
| Tranmere | 29 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 42 | 49 | 32 |
| Cheltenham | 28 | 9 | 3 | 16 | 27 | 48 | 30 |
| Crawley Town | 29 | 6 | 8 | 15 | 32 | 47 | 26 |
| Barrow | 27 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 28 | 42 | 24 |
| Bristol Rovers | 28 | 7 | 3 | 18 | 24 | 47 | 24 |
| Shrewsbury | 28 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 47 | 23 |
| Newport County | 28 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 29 | 54 | 20 |
| Harrogate Town | 29 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 20 | 48 | 18 |

**GILLINGHAM** (1) **1**
Dack 44
ATT: 8,164

**BROMLEY** (3) **4**
Thompson 10, 19, 48
Whitely 27

**Gillingham:** Morris, Gale, Smith, Masterson (Coleman 42), Clark, McKenzie, Little, Rowe (Hale 46), Dack (Antwi 85), McCleary (Hutton 73), Andrews (Vokes 74). **Booked:** Little 6.
**Bromley:** Smith, Ifill, Debrah, Medley, Odutayo, Charles, Whitely, Thompson (Krauhaus 70), Hondermarck (Arthurs 64), Pinnock (Ilunga 88), Cheek (Kabamba 89). **Booked:** Pinnock 27, Whitely 45, Medley 89. **Ref:** Alan Young.

**GRIMSBY** (0) **2**
Kabia 64, 72
ATT: 6,246

**MK DONS** (2) **2**
Paterson 22 (pen)
Ekpiteta 28

**Grimsby:** Smith, Rodgers, Lavelle (Warren 79), McJannett, Sweeney (Staunton 27), McEachran, Kabia, Walker (Turi 87), Khouri, Vernam (Sellars-Fleming 90), Cook (Amaluzor 86). **Booked:** Vernam 35.
**MK Dons:** MacGillivray, Ekpiteta, Nelson, Offord, Kelly (C Lemonheigh-Evans 71 (Matete 84)), Jones, Wiles, Gilbey, Mellish, Collins, Paterson (Hepburn-Murphy 71). **Booked:** Offord 75, Matete 90. **Ref:** Kirsty Dowle.

**OLDHAM** (0) **0**
ATT: 7,012

**CAMBRIDGE UTD** (0) **3**
Knight 55 (pen), Appere 60, 67

**Oldham:** Hudson, Caprice, Daniels, Monthe, Robson, Pett (Hannant 46), Woods, Payne, Stevens (Jalo 63), Drummond (Taylor 63), Garner (J Quigley 35 (Fondop-Talom 64)). **Booked:** Drummond 45, J Quigley 46.
**Cambridge Utd:** Eastwood, Gibbons, Jobe, Watts, Bennett, Ball (Nevitt 84), McLoughlin (Hoddle 81), Brophy (Purrington 72), Knight (KaiKai 72), Mpanzu, Appere (Lavery 72). **Booked:** Ball 41, Lavery 87. **Ref:** Ruebyn Ricardo.

**SHREWSBURY** (0) **0**

**BARNET** (0) **0**
ATT: 5,075

**Shrewsbury:** Cox, Stubbs, Boyle, Ruffels, Hoole, Freeman (McDermott 76), Clucas, Benning (Sang 70), Scully (Perry 62), Marquis (Morgan 62), Lloyd (Kabia 76). **Booked:** Hoole 50, McDermott 90, Stubbs 90.
**Barnet:** Slicker, Collinge, Kizzi, Tavares, Senior (Browne 62), Shelton, Hartigan, Ofoborh (Jaiyesimi 63), Glover (Assombalonga 90), Tshimanga, Kanu. **Booked:** Tshimanga 25. **Ref:** Neil Hair.

**SWINDON** (1) **3**
Palmer 20
Drinan 77, 87

**BARROW** (1) **1**
Rose 10
ATT: 7,596

**Swindon:** Ripley, Wright, Tafazolli (Mabete 90), Wilson-Brown (McGregor 46), Kirkman, Ball (Oldaker 75), Nichols (Holman 75), Kilkenny, Olakigbe (Snowdon 90), Drinan, Palmer. **Booked:** Nichols 31.
**Barrow:** Stanway, Thompson, Raglan, Anderson, Barkhuizen (Whitfield 65), Earing (Harper 66), Smith (Mahoney 80), McCann, Powell (Jackson 55), Rose, Fletcher (Malcolm 55). **Booked:** Smith 38. **Ref:** Ollie Yates.

**TRANMERE** (0) **0**
ATT: 6,203

**SALFORD CITY** (0) **2**
Grant 68, N'Mai 75

**Tranmere:** Murphy, Tamen (Plant 79), Smith, Brough, Norman (McGowan 79), Finley, Kenneh (Blacker 72), Bristow, Whitaker, Jones (Ironside 51), Dennis. **Booked:** Finley 81, Dennis 90.
**Salford City:** Young, Turton, Cooper (Awe 64), Garbutt, Longelo (Butcher 78), Cesay (Woodburn 46), Grant (Borini 81), Austerfield (Ashley 46), N'Mai, Graydon, Udoh. **Ref:** Richard Eley.

**LIN THE MOOD** Kerolin is jubilant after scoring the fourth; (above) being subbed

# HIGH FIVE

## Kerolin hat-trick bashes the Blues as City go 11 points clear

| | |
|---|---|
| MAN CITY | 5 |
| CHELSEA | 1 |

**BRAZILIAN star Kerolin grabbed a stunning hat-trick to leave Manchester City with one hand on the WSL trophy after blowing away the defending champions at the Etihad Stadium.**

Khadija Shaw and Vivianne Miedema were also on target as the runaway leaders forged an imposing 11-point lead over Manchester United, with the Blues a further point back in third.

City were two up at the break before running riot in the second half. They need a maximum of five wins from their remaining eight games to clinch top spot and South American sensation Kerolin admitted: "It's hard to describe how it feels. We're going to enjoy this win.

"I'm enjoying the moment with the team. Without them I can't do anything.

"If we're in this position right now, it's because of the team and I'm really happy to help. It's nice to score a hat-trick but we need to keep going and look forward."

Kerolin set the tone with a powerful 13th-minute finish. Shaw shrugged off defender Naomi Girma to slot home the second before Kerolin doubled her tally with a stunning chip over England keeper Hannah Hampton after running the length of the pitch. The 26-year-old completed her treble with a close-range tap-in and Dutch striker Miedema headed the fifth.

Despite City's commanding position, head coach Andree Jeglertz was keen to keep his players' feet on the ground. He insisted: "It's a fantastic win but we haven't won the league. I will never say it's won until it's done and it's important to keep the standards high for the rest of the season."

Chelsea had beaten City in seven of their eight previous meetings and had come out on top twice against them in league and cup this season.

They had no answer to the hosts' fluid movement and slick passing as they were blown away to leave them with a fight to secure a Champions League place after shipping five goals for only the second time in WSL history.

Alyssa Thompson claimed a late consolation goal and shell-shocked Chelsea manager Sonia Bompastor admitted: "It's tough for everyone and we're not going to shy away from that.

"We made too many mistakes and when you do that against a team like City you get punished. We have to stick together."

### SUPER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man City | 14 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 12 | 39 |
| Man Utd | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 15 | 28 |
| Chelsea | 14 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 13 | 27 |
| Arsenal | 13 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 10 | 26 |
| Tottenham | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 26 |
| London City | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 17 | 24 | 19 |
| Brighton | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Aston Villa | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 25 | 16 |
| Everton | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 11 |
| Leicester | 13 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 9 |
| West Ham | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 32 | 8 |
| Liverpool FC | 14 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 24 | 7 |

**ARSENAL** P **LEICESTER** P

**BRIGHTON & HVE** (1) 1 **LONDON CITY** (2) 2
Seike 23 Minami 36 (og)
Att: 1,990 Godfrey 45

**EVERTON** (1) 2 **ASTON VILLA** (1) 1
Fernandez 32, 89 Salmon 13

**MAN CITY** (2) 5 **CHELSEA** (0) 1
Kerolin 13, 49, 54 Thompson 68
Shaw 36
Miedema 72

## WOMEN'S ROUND-UP

# LISA'S DEADLY DOUBLE AS UNITED TRIUMPH

MANCHESTER UNITED kept up their bid for a top three WSL finish with a convincing 3-1 win against bottom-of-the-table LIVERPOOL.

Two second-half goals from Lisa Naalsund (right, with her player of the match award) and a late third from sub Frida Rolfo proved too much for the Reds, who had levelled through Alice Bergstrom.

United Boss Marc Skinner said: "We're really pleased with the win and now all we can do is manage ourselves and keep as much pressure on as possible. We've had a fantastic start to the year and it's our job to continue that. Lisa has had to wait a while but I'm so pleased for her because she gives everything all the time. The goals are incredible so congratulations to her on her performance."

Defender Martina Fernandez scored twice as EVERTON won 2-1 at home against ASTON VILLA.

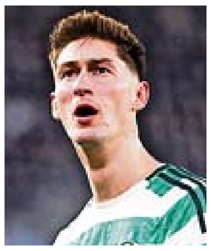
The Spain Under-23 international said: "I'm so happy to score but they were team goals. We gave everything and it's special to get our first three points here, we deserved it." SPURS came from behind to beat WEST HAM 2-1 thanks to second-half goals from Matilda Vinberg and Olivia Holdt before having Drew Spence sent off in stoppage-time.

Eder Maestre earned his first win as LONDON CITY LIONESSES head coach with a 2-1 victory at BRIGHTON.

He said: "It means a lot, but it's maybe not the way that I prefer to win the game.

"I'm happy because I recognise we are a fighting team and that makes me proud."

## SCOTTISH ROUND-UP



# CELTIC HEAD FOR GLORY VIA TOMAS

TOMAS CVANCARA headed his first goal for Celtic as the champions moved back above Rangers in the Premiership with a 2-0 win over Falkirk.

Benjamin Nygren was also on target as Celtic moved above the Light Blues on goals scored and six points behind leaders Hearts.

Falkirk contributed to an entertaining game, registering 14 shots at goal, but Celtic were more clinical.

Loan signing Cvancara (above) marked his home debut with a glancing header from Kieran Tierney's cross in the 39th minute to open the scoring.

Nygren sealed the win as he curled the ball into the top corner in the 62nd minute after exchanging passes with Callum McGregor down the left flank.

Celtic boss Martin O'Neill said: "Naturally pleased [Tomas Cvancara] got the goal. He hasn't played a lot of football in recent times, but I think there's lots of improvements in his game. There's a player there.

"I said to [Benjamin Nygren] in my first spell that midfield players who score goals are worth their weight in gold.

"We are [close to transfers]. We've some medicals here at this minute and fingers crossed the players come through. We've got a couple and we're hoping to add maybe late on.

"That would give us a chance. We're staying there to the end and let's see what happens."

It was a good day for Celtic after RANGERS slipped up by drawing a blank against HIBERNIAN at Easter Road.

Rangers goalkeeper Jack Butland helped to keep David Gray's side at bay in the first half as the visitors laboured. The second half was much more of the same as far as Rangers were concerned.

## NON-LEAGUE ROUND-UP

# PHENOMENAL WIN SO DOM AND DUSTED

BY **JASON MELLOR**

BOSS Dom Di Paola hailed 'phenomenal' HORSHAM as they booked an FA Trophy quarter-final berth for the first time in their history.

The National League South part-timers came from a goal down to win 2-1 at full-time SCUNTHORPE – who are a division and 28 places above them in the non-League pyramid.

Goals from Reece Myles-Meekums and Jake Elliott sealed the West Sussex side's place in today's draw and Di Paola said: "We were bang out of form so it was a massive undertaking and I thought we were phenomenal."

MARINE and KIDDERMINSTER both progressed thanks to penalty shootout wins against high-division opponents in beating TAMWORTH and HALIFAX respectively.

Robbie Savage (above) tore into his FOREST GREEN side after they were dumped out 3-0 at home to WEALDSTONE. The Rovers boss said: "That's the first time in my tenure here that we've put in an unacceptable performance. They were the better side and could have scored five or six. It was rubbish.

"We've gone from being a dynamic, relentless team and it's a worry. Lads were late coming out for the warm-up and standards have slipped so the fans have every right to have a go at us."

SOUTHEND boss Kevin Maher admitted he 'hated every minute' as the Shrimpers progressed with a 1-0 win at CHATHAM.

YORK returned to the top of the National League as they stretched their four-month unbeaten record with a 2-0 win at SOLIHULL.

SOUTH SHIELDS moved nine points clear at the top of National League North after a 3-1 win at OXFORD CITY.

Ends